

Informal Discretionary Competitive (IDC Grant)

LASO 2026-2027 (Cycle 5)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2027-2028 Blended Learning Grant (BLG) Program Guidelines

Authorized by: General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 55,
89th Texas Legislature

Grant Application Due Date

December 1, 2026; 5:00 p.m. CT



Table of Contents

Introduction to the Program Guidelines	3
Requirement for Username and Password	3
Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines	4
Errata Notices	4
Overview of LASO Process	4
Email Bulletins	5
Contact for Clarifying Information	5
U.S. Department of Education and/or State Appropriations	5
LASO Timeline	5
Resources Available to Help Applicants Select the Most Appropriate Initiative(s)	7
LASO at a Glance	7
Authorizing Legislation	8
Where to Submit the LASO Application	8
Purpose of Program	8
Eligible Applicants	8
Application Funding	9
Limitation of Administrative Funds	10
LASO Application Requirements and Assurances	11
Program Elements	19
Allowable Activities and Use of Funds	21
Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds	23
Expenditure Reporting (ER)	23
Attachments	24
Required Program-Related Attachments	24
Required Fiscal-Related Attachments	24
Adding Attachments	24
LASO Scoring and Review	25
LASO Review	25
Funding Criteria	27
Priority Points	28
Oral Interviews for Funding	28

Introduction to the Program Guidelines

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) administers federal¹ and state grant awards to its subgrantees² to carry out a program. Such entities include primarily school systems (referred to as local educational agencies [LEAs] in statutes), including independent school districts and charter schools; education service centers (ESCs); and, to a lesser degree, institutions of higher education (IHEs), nonprofit organizations (NPOs), and other statutorily allowable organizations. The following Program Guidelines apply to all eligible subgrantees for the designated grant program.

The Program Guidelines, as part of the request for application (RFA), are to be used in conjunction with the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) and any application instructions or other RFA requirements, as listed for the grant on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page. The Standard Application System (SAS) consists of Application Part 1 (PDF narrative schedules) and Application Part 2 (Excel budget schedules). An eligible applicant must submit both parts of the SAS to apply for funding, unless specifically delineated in these guidelines.

For applicants selected for funding, all guidelines and instructions will be incorporated by reference into the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

Requirement for Username and Password

To access eGrants and apply for this grant, you must have access to the [TEA Login \(TEAL\)](#). Follow these steps to apply for usernames and passwords on TEAL:

1. Visit the [TEA Login \(TEAL\)](#) page of the TEA website. Select [Request New User Account](#) to begin the process of applying for a TEAL account online.
2. Once you have been assigned a TEA Login (TEAL) account, log into TEAL and under Self-Service select My Application Accounts.
3. The My Accounts tab will open. Select Request New Account, then find eGrants in the list and follow the instructions to submit your request.
4. Entities with existing TEAL accounts but no eGrants accounts should email competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov to ensure proper access to eGrants and this application.
5. If the application does not appear in your "Apply for Eligible Grants" section in your eGrants homepage, please email competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov.
6. For those entities without a prior relationship with TEA, and no TEAL accounts please email competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov with the following information prior to requesting a TEAL

¹ TEA is the grantee and pass-through entity for federal education funding. *Grantee* is defined as the legal entity to which a grant is awarded and that is accountable to the federal government for the use of the funds provided. The term "grantee" does not include any secondary recipients, such as subgrantees and contractors, that may receive funds from a grantee pursuant to a subgrant or contract. (34 CFR 77.1) *Pass-through entity* is defined as a recipient or subrecipient that provides a subaward to a subrecipient (including lower tier subrecipients) to carry out part of a federal program. (2 CFR 200.1)

² *Subgrantee* is defined by TEA to be the same as a *subrecipient*, which is defined in 2 CFR 200.1 as an entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal award. The term does not include an individual that is a beneficiary or participant of the program. For purposes of the request for application (RFA), TEA may use the terms *subgrantee*, *grantee*, *subrecipient*, and *applicant* synonymously.

account:

- a. Entity name
 - b. Entity full address – Street, city, state, zip code
 - c. County
 - d. Entity phone number
 - e. Entity email address
 - f. Entity Legal Authority - Name, title, email and phone
 - g. Entity Legal Authority Backup – Name, title, email and phone
 - h. Vendor ID/FEIN
7. All requests for TEAL and eGrants accounts must be submitted well in advance of the application deadline to avoid delays. Please note that this application process is both detailed and time intensive. It is the applicant's responsibility to plan accordingly and allocate sufficient time to complete, certify, and submit the application before the deadline.

Late submissions caused by delays in obtaining TEAL or eGrants access, or by technical issues, will not be accepted under any circumstances. To ensure a smooth process, we strongly recommend initiating account setup and application work as early as possible.

Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines

The Program Guidelines provide information specifically relevant to this grant program. The [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) provide information relevant to all TEA grant programs. Throughout the Program Guidelines, cross-references are given to applicable sections of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#). It is critical that the grantee review all cross-referenced sections when preparing the application.

Errata Notices

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Errata Notices.

Overview of LASO Process

The following steps provide a high-level overview of the process for responding to Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC), including submitting an IDC application, and being selected for funding:

1. TEA publishes IDC application and supporting documents on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#).
2. Eligible applicants submit the LASO application via Qualtrics by the specified deadline in this document.
3. IDC applications are reviewed and scored. Note: The highest scoring applicants may be required to attend an oral interview or respond to questions regarding their IDC application.
4. TEA announces applicants selected for funding on the TEA [Grants Awarded Data](#) webpage.
5. Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit and certify an eGrant funding application including assurances and a budget summary to receive funding. Note: All data submitted in the needs

assessment application is incorporated into the eGrants funding application under the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the IDC application.
7. Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

Email Bulletins

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), GovDelivery Bulletins, as applicable.

Contact for Clarifying Information

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *TEA Contacts*.

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Primary Program Contact: Michael Strange, Blended Learning Grants Manager

Primary Program Contact Email: Michael.Strange@tea.texas.gov

Primary Program Contact Phone: (512) 463-9616

Additional Program Contact: Brian Doran, Expanded Learning Models Director

Additional Program Contact Email: Brian.Doran@tea.texas.gov

Funding Manager: Competitive Grants Unit, Grants Administration Division

Funding Manager Email: Competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov

U.S. Department of Education and/or State Appropriations

The following is provided in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education Appropriations Act:

Category	Amount
Total funds available for this project	\$3,000,000
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	0
Amount of federal funds	0
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources	100%
Amount of nonfederal funds	\$3,000,000

**Should additional funding become available for this program, the agency may add it to the base amount indicated above and fund additional qualifying awardees until all funding is exhausted.*

LASO Timeline

For all dates related to LASO, including reporting dates, see the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page. If a report due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the report will be due the following business day. All dates except the grant ending date may vary slightly as conditions require.

Date	Event
September 14, 2026	General Webinar Option #1 Registration link 1 Webinar registration link can be found on the LASO website
September 18, 2026	General Webinar Option #2 Registration link 2 Webinar registration link can be found on the LASO website
September 23, 2026	LASO application available LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on September 23, 2026. Please see the LASO website for more information.
September 28, 2026	FAQ Publishing The FAQs for this grant program will be posted to the TEA Grant Opportunities page and LASO website no later than the date listed on the Grant Timeline. Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at LASO@tea.texas.gov See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Frequently Asked Questions
October 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #1 Registration links found on the LASO website
October 19, 2026, 12:00 a.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #2 Registration links found on the LASO website
November 1, 2026	FAQ question submission deadline
November 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. CT	Office Hours Registration links found on the LASO website
December 1, 2026	Due date for the LASO Qualtrics application. The LASO application must be received by the TEA by 5:00 p.m. CT. See TEA Grant Opportunities , LASO Application Due Date and Time
December 2, 2026- January 30, 2027	Application review period, including interviews if necessary See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Review Process
February 8, 2027	Anticipated award announcement
February 8, 2027	eGrants ADC and Application opens for awarded applicants
March 2, 2027	Due Date for eGrants Application

March 2, 2027	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period
March 31, 2028	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding)
June 30, 2028	End date of grant (if selected for funding)

Resources Available to Help Applicants Select the Most Appropriate Initiative(s)

An applicant that is eligible to apply for more than one initiative is encouraged to carefully review all available program information before submitting an application. To support applicants in determining which initiative or combination of initiatives best aligns with local needs, program goals, and eligibility requirements, the following resources are available:

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Resource**

Applicants may submit program-specific questions through the FAQ process to obtain clarification regarding eligibility requirements, allowable activities, program priorities, application expectations, and other grant-related topics. Responses to frequently asked questions may also provide additional guidance and interpretation of program requirements that can assist applicants in making informed decisions about which initiative(s) to pursue.

- **Webinars**

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) may offer informational webinars designed to provide an overview of available initiatives, application requirements, timelines, funding considerations, and program expectations. These live virtual presentations may include slide decks, demonstrations, and opportunities to address commonly asked questions. Recordings and presentation materials may be made available for later reference.

- **Office Hours**

TEA program staff may conduct designated office hours to provide technical assistance and support to prospective applicants.

- **Additional Best-Fit Guidance Resources**

TEA has developed supplemental resources to assist applicants in selecting the initiative or combination of initiatives that best aligns with local needs and strategic priorities. These resources include initiative-specific one-pagers, best-fit guidance presentations, and initiative coherence supports designed to help applicants understand program distinctions, identify complementary funding opportunities, and make informed application decisions. Resources can be found via the [LASO Cycle 5 website](#)

Note: Programmatic support is only available via webinars and the FAQ process. Office hours are for technical support only regarding application submittal prior to the application deadline.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize these resources prior to submitting an application. Participation in webinars, review of FAQ guidance, and engagement during office hours can help ensure a clear understanding of program requirements and assist applicants in identifying the funding opportunity that best supports their intended outcomes.

LASO at a Glance

This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the initiative program.

Authorizing Legislation

This grant is authorized by the General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 55, 89th Texas Legislature; TEC Sec 28.020, Blended Learning Grant Program.

Where to Submit the LASO Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on September 23, 2026. Please see the [LASO website](#) for more information.

Purpose of Program

The Blended Learning Grant opportunity has two distinct pathways and associated purposes that applicants will select from, as described below:

The **Blended Learning Coherent Systems pathway (previously Academic Cohort)** supports school systems and open-enrollment charter schools in planning, implementing, and sustaining a high-quality blended learning model in mathematics (through Math Innovation Zones - MIZ) and Reading Language Arts (RLA) aligned to Bluebonnet instructional materials. Through the integration of approved digital supplemental learning systems and rigorous performance management practices, participating school systems will use student software usage, implementation fidelity, and academic outcome data to drive instructional coherence, continuous improvement, and stronger outcomes for students.

The **Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway (previously Strategic Operations Cohort)** will support school systems and open-enrollment charter schools in leveraging a blended learning model to make a strategic operational shift to scheduling, staffing and/or budgets. This shift will seek to make robust operational changes to optimize campus staffing models for teachers while maximizing academic impact for students. The grant is available to school systems that have successfully completed a planning phase of either Math Innovation Zones or RLA Blended Learning grants. Applicants will select a blended model that will require significant operational and staffing shifts to rethink time in a teacher-centric way at the participating campus(es).

Note: Both pathways must choose a specific blended model, integrating a tier 1 curriculum with a digital supplemental product, from the options here. A participating campus master schedule may need to be adjusted to accommodate the time blocks required.

Eligible Applicants

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Eligibility for Funding.

The eligible applicants are:

- Eligible applicants to the Blended Learning Coherent Systems pathway are those school systems who have previously participated or currently participated in a Tier 1 math and/or reading curriculum planning through a TEA initiative(s). (i.e. LASO 4 (LIFT) Leadership & Instructional Foundation for Texas, LASO 3 Strong Foundations Implementation)
- Eligible applicants to the Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway are those school systems who have previously participated in TEA Blended Learning Grants (i.e. Math Innovation Zones, Blended Learning Grant Program, or School Action Fund Redesign- Blended Learning) and/or who have previously participated or currently participated in a strategic staffing initiative through TEA. Applicants must have shown high usage in approved supplemental products in math and/or reading language arts for grades K-8 in spring of 2026.

- If a charter school closure is pending review, the award will be placed on hold pending a final determination regarding closure. If the final determination is to keep the charter open, the funding will be released. If the determination is to close the charter, making the charter ineligible, the award will be voided and no funds will be disbursed.

Charters not **yet** serving students are not eligible.

Education Service Centers (ESCs) are not eligible to apply.

Eligibility List

To be eligible to apply, grantees must have previously completed or currently participating in the following TEA initiatives, per pathway:

Coherent Systems pathway

1. LASO 3.0 Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI) Grant
2. LASO 4 Leadership & Instructional Foundation for Texas (LIFT) Implementation Grant
3. LASO 2.0 Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI) Grant

Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway – Blended Learning Grant Participation

1. LASO 3.0 BLG Math (First year of execution in 2025-2026)
2. LASO 3.0 BLG RLA (First year of execution in 2025-2026)
3. LASO 2.0 BLG Math (First year of execution in 2024-2025)
4. LASO 2.0 BLG RLA (First year of execution in 2024-2025)
5. LASO 1.0 BLG Math (First year of execution in 2023-2024)
6. LASO 1.0 BLG RLA (First year of execution in 2023-2024)
7. TCLAS 3A Math (First year of execution in 2022-2023)
8. TCLAS 3A RLA (First year of execution in 2022-2023)
9. SAF Blended Learning Redesign (First year of Continuation in 2021-2022)
10. MIZ Grant (First year of execution in 2021-2022 or prior)
11. Non-Math (First year of execution in 2021-2022 or prior)

Applicants to the Strategic and Innovative Operations pathway are eligible if they have participated in one of the Blended Learning Grant Program cohorts listed above. Participation in certain Strategic Staffing initiatives is not required for eligibility; however, applicants may earn priority points for such participation as outlined in the Scoring and Review section below.

Shared Services Arrangement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Shared Services Arrangements.

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed.

Application Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#): *Continuation Funding, Fund Management, and Use of Funds*.

It is anticipated that up to approximately 20 applicants will be awarded (\$76,000-\$198,000) for the LASO 5

Blended Learning Grant between the Coherent Systems and Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathways.

LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant (Year 1):

- **Coherent Systems pathway:** It is anticipated that 12 applicant(s) will be awarded for Year 1 – LASO 5 BLG between \$76,000 - \$128,000 (up to \$178,000 if awarded both Math and Reading cohorts)
- **Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway:** Is anticipated that 8 applicant(s) will be awarded for Year 1 – LASO 5 BLG between \$106,000 - \$198,000

Blended Learning Execution Grant (Continuation Year 2 & Year 3):

- **Coherent Systems pathway:** It is anticipated that qualifying applicants will be **awarded up to 125 percent** of their LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant award for continued execution in years 2 and 3.
- **Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway:** It is anticipated that qualifying applicants will be **awarded up to 125 percent** of their LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant award for continued execution in years 2 and 3.

*Note: **This is a three-year grant.** Year 1, LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant, spans from March 2027 through May 31, 2028, followed by the continuation grant (contingent on available funding) for Year 2 anticipated from June 2028 through April 30, 2029, and Year 3 anticipated from June 2029 through May 30, 2030, **upon satisfactory completion of LASO 5 grant milestones**, including software usage expectations and a satisfactory grantee health score.*

**Should additional funding become available for this program, the agency may add it to the base amount indicated above and fund additional qualifying awardees until all funding is exhausted.*

***If a charter school closure is pending review, the award will be placed on hold pending a final determination regarding closure. If the final determination is to keep the charter open, the funding will be released. If the determination is to close the charter, making the charter ineligible, the award will be voided and no funds will be disbursed*

Selection of Applicants for Funding

Applicants will be selected in rank order-

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Cost Share/Match Requirement.

There is no cost share or matching requirement for this grant program.

Supplement, Not Supplant

For supplement, not supplant guidance, see the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook on the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration's [Training and Other Resources](#) page.

The supplement, not supplant provision does apply to this grant program.

Limitation of Administrative Funds

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Administrative Costs.

NOTE: Administrative funds include **both** direct administrative costs **and** allowable indirect costs.

Note Regarding Grantee Determination of Grant-Funded Position Functions as Administrative or Programmatic: The grantee is responsible for making case-by-case determinations to determine whether the functions of a grant-funded position are **administrative or programmatic**, or divided between both. There may be overlap in characteristics and activities, and no single factor or combination of factors is necessarily determinative. There are no uniform federal regulations that define how to characterize costs as either direct program or direct administrative costs. However, the organization must be consistent across programs in how they charge these costs. For more information, including considerations for making a determination regarding a grant-funded position, see the [Universal Errata](#) issued by TEA on July 15, 2026.

Direct Administrative Costs

TEA limits the amount of funds that may be budgeted to administer the program, including direct administrative costs and indirect costs, to no more than 15% of the total grant awarded.

Indirect Costs

For this state-funded grant, the grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to **the lesser** of its current, approved restricted indirect cost rate or 15%.

To calculate the maximum indirect costs that can be claimed for a grant, complete the [Maximum Indirect Costs Worksheet](#), located on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page.

Pre-Award Costs

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Pre-Award Costs.

Pre-award costs are not permitted for this grant.

LASO Application Requirements and Assurances

Statutorily Required Responses

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Statutory Requirements

Per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fingerprinting Requirement.

The following requirements are defined in the statute that authorizes this program. The applicant must comply with each of these requirements in the application to be considered for funding:

1. Implement with fidelity an innovative blended learning instructional program approved by the Commissioner for purposes of this section that addresses the essential knowledge and skills of the subject-specific curriculum required by Sections §29.924 and/or §28.020 of the TEC;
2. Comply with objectives, metrics, and other blended learning math and/or reading requirements imposed by the Commissioner through rules adopted under Subsection (g), including:
 - a. Develop a plan to implement a blended learning model according to statute requirements.
 - b. Implement the model across at least one full grade level at the campus and expand to other grade levels and/or campuses.

- c. Require teachers to differentiate instruction for all students in a grade level using a research-backed blended learning model.
 - d. Provide teachers and other relevant personnel with professional development opportunities regarding blended learning.
 - e. Require the use of a proficiency-based assessment.
3. Provide all data relating to the grant program requested by the agency.

TEA Application Required Responses

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), TEA Program Requirements.

This section identifies the types of requirements in which applicants must comply to be eligible for funding:

Coherent Systems pathway:

- School systems must have participated or currently participating in at least one of the following TEA Tier 1 curriculum academic grant cohorts
 - LASO 4 Leadership & Instructional Foundation for Texas (LIFT) Implementation Grant
 - LASO 3.0 Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI) Grant.
 - LASO 2.0 Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI) Grant
- Participating campuses must serve grades K-8 Math and/or Reading by the end of the grant period through the following process:
 - Feeder pattern between campuses: elementary (K-5) and secondary (6-8).
 - Year 1 participation with at least three grade levels: two elementary and one secondary.
 - Year 2 participation with all grade levels (K-8).
 - Year 3 participation with all grade levels (K-8).
- School systems must choose to implement a Math and/or RLA blended product with an SBOE approved Tier 1 curriculum product (see full list at [Instructional Materials Review and Approval](#)). *Note: This is a live webpage that will be annually updated (anticipated in the next update will be November 2026).*
- School systems must identify which SBOE approved tier-one curriculum product and IMRA and/or [Ratio Waiver List](#) (RWL) approved supplemental product(s) that will be implemented with a [blended learning model](#) from the following options (may choose more than one option):
 - **K-5 Math** | Bluebonnet with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
 - **6-8 Math** | Bluebonnet with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
 - **Algebra 1 Math** | Bluebonnet with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
 - **K-5 Reading** | Bluebonnet with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
 - **6-8 Reading** | [Tier 1 Curriculum - IMRA approved] with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].

- Participating campus(es) will implement the above tier-one curriculum and supplemental products for their selected grade-levels and student population.

Strategic and Innovative Operations pathway:

- School systems must have participated in a current or previous TEA Blended Learning Grant program.
 - LASO 3.0 BLG Math (First year of execution in 2025-2026)
 - LASO 3.0 BLG RLA (First year of execution in 2025-2026)
 - LASO 2.0 BLG Math (First year of execution in 2024-2025)
 - LASO 2.0 BLG RLA (First year of execution in 2024-2025)
 - LASO 1.0 BLG Math (First year of execution in 2023-2024)
 - LASO 1.0 BLG RLA (First year of execution in 2023-2024)
 - TCLAS 3A Math (First year of execution in 2022-2023)
 - TCLAS 3A RLA (First year of execution in 2022-2023)
 - SAF Blended Learning Redesign (First year of Continuation in 2021-2022)
 - MIZ Grant (First year of execution in 2021-2022 or prior)
 - Non-Math (First year of execution in 2021-2022 or prior)
- School systems will be prioritized based on current or previous participation in TEA Strategic Staffing Grant programs.
 - Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant.
 - Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable, Paid Teacher Residency Program.
 - Sustainable Residency Continuation Grant.
 - Cycle 6 Grow Your Own (GYO) Grant.
 - LASO 4 - PREP GYO Allotment.
- Participating campuses must serve, at least, each grade-band by the end of the grant period; K-2, 3-5, 6-8.
- School systems must implement one or more of the three staffing approaches (Reach More Students, Co-Teaching/Mentorship, and Schedule and Staffing Optimization), each requiring substantial changes to campus operations and staffing structures, including a Teacher-Leader approach, across all participating campuses. See examples [here](#)
 - In all operational shift approaches, school systems will describe their initial plans including elements that maximize the number of students served by a Teacher-Leader and/or significantly adjusting the staffing model on the campus while maintaining or increasing the quality of academic experience.
- School systems will download and upload the following scoring template (see Attachments section) to submit with calculations for the questions below:
 - a. How many digital supplemental products (i.e. IXL, iReady, ST Math, Zearn, etc.) were implemented for each blended model(s) at the proposed participating campus(es)?
 - b. Name of digital supplemental product implemented for each blended model(s) at the proposed

- participating campus(es)?
- c. List the recommended digital supplemental product usage target (e.g., “30 minutes per week” or “2 lessons per week”).
- d. Identify campuses and grade levels implementing the above digital supplemental product in spring 2026.
- e. How many Total K-8 students are enrolled at the proposed participating campus(es) above?
- f. How many K-8 students participating in blended learning at proposed participating campus(es) in the Spring of 2026?
- g. What is the percentage of K-8 students participating in blended learning at proposed participating campus(es) (questions f and e)?
- h. Of the participating students in question f, how many of them are meeting the recommended digital supplemental product usage target (question c)?
- i. What percentage of participating K-8 students met the digital supplemental product usage target (question f and h)?
- j. Include a screenshot of the software school system dashboard as evidence of the calculations above for each software product included?
- School systems must choose to implement a digital supplemental blended product in Math, Reading or both with the school system’s TEA-available core product.
- School systems must identify which SBOE approved tier-one curriculum product and supplemental product that will be implemented with a [blended learning model](#) from the following options (may choose more than one option):
 - **K-5 Math** | [Tier 1 Curriculum: IMRA approved] with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
 - **6-8 Math** | [Tier 1 Curriculum: IMRA approved] with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
 - **K-5 Reading** | Bluebonnet with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
 - **6-8 Reading** | [Tier 1 Curriculum - IMRA approved] with [Supplemental Product: RWL approved or school system-proposed IMRA approved product submitted for TEA approval].
- Participating campus(es) will implement the above Tier 1 curriculum and supplemental products for their selected grade-levels and student population.
- School systems must establish a cross-departmental steering committee, which includes a representative from the finance team, curriculum & instruction team, campus leadership team, and teacher-leader to facilitate strong planning and implementation.

Statutory or Program-Specific Assurances

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Provisions and Assurances.

1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not

be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this IDC will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.

2. The applicant assures that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
3. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the Blended Learning Grant Program Guidelines.
4. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the Blended Learning Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
5. The applicant assures that any Electronic Information Resources (EIR) produced as part of this agreement will comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements as specified in 1 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.
6. The applicant acknowledges that Per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fingerprinting Requirement.
7. Equal Treatment of All Persons: Consistent with Article I, Section 3a of the Texas Constitution, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, federal and State law, and Executive Order No. GA-55, Subrecipient represents and warrants that: 1. All conduct under this Subaward shall be administered and performed in a neutral manner without regard to race of persons; 2. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, elevate one individual person over another, or advantage any one person over another, due to race; 3. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, employ practices or engage in any advancement of the programs known as DEI, critical race theory, affirmative action, or other similar, divisive agendas; 4. Subrecipient's staff, agents, subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors that are selected and employed in the specific performance of this Subaward shall be selected and employed solely on merit and the ability to perform; and 5. Subrecipient shall ensure that any subgrantees, contractors and their subcontractors participating in the specific performance of this Subaward represent and warrant to the provisions of this clause.
8. Biological Sex and No Preferred Pronouns: Subrecipient represents and warrants that it shall ensure that all actions in specific performance of this Subaward shall comply with federal and state law and reflect that there are only two sexes. Subrecipient's employees, officers, representatives, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, and agents shall not, in performance of this Subaward, present, direct, request, or suggest the use of preferred personal pronouns in professional correspondence or presentations.
9. The school system will maintain current contact information in AskTED to ensure timely communication.
10. The school system will regularly submit their expenditures (monthly preferred, quarterly at minimum) to remain on-track for grant expenditures.
11. The school system will participate in all required meetings and submit evidence of implementation, at a monthly/quarterly cadence.

The following assurances apply **grant-wide for both pathways** (Coherent Systems and Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations):

1. The grantee will designate and provide a **school system-level project manager** who will be available to **dedicate approximately 50% of his or her time** to designing and implementing the blended learning plan and who has decision-making authority to act on the developed plan.
2. The school system agrees to designate and share the project manager's name and contact information with TEA and vendors for communication for logistics and usage monitoring. They also agree that this information is updated and maintained throughout the grant.
3. In the Spring of 2027, the grantee agrees to work with a third-party vendor to complete a technology audit for a landscape analysis of supplemental products currently purchased and/or used at campuses prior to the end of the 2026-2027 school year.
4. The grantee agrees for their program manager or campus leader to participate (attend) in a blended learning summit (conference) once a year.
5. The grantee agrees for their program manager or campus leader to participate (attend or host) in a blended learning campus site visit twice a year (once in the Fall Semester and once in the Spring Semester).
6. The grantee will submit fidelity of planning deliverables prior to the beginning of the first school year, including but not limited to the following:
 - 17.1 Master schedule with sufficient time for meeting weekly fidelity requirements for digital supplemental student usage and Tier 1 curriculum.
 - 17.2 Assessment calendar allowing for weekly formative student data.
 - 17.3 Selecting an approved Tier 1 curriculum.
 - 17.4 Selecting an approved digital supplemental product.
 - 17.5 Technology audit report.
 - 17.6 Stakeholder engagement plan.
 - 17.7 Professional learning calendars.
 - 17.8 Attending fidelity-of-planning meetings, including virtual meetings and the in-person BL Summit.
7. The grantee is responsible for ensuring the timely completion of all required supplemental software submission data and deliverables. To support this requirement, the grantee may agree to authorize its selected digital supplemental software vendor to share and submit student software usage data to TEA on the grantee's behalf for the completion, monitoring, and reporting of required program implementation deliverables throughout the grant period, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Student usage progress towards the selected adaptive software program recommended metrics.
 - b. Sharing student [TSDS](#) unique IDs with select software product vendor for TEA monthly usage reports.
 - c. Sharing unit assessment data from core curriculum.
 - d. Complete all required training(s) to build competency with the supplemental software product.

- e. Completing all required research surveys throughout the grant program period.
8. The grantee will participate in required communities of practice and any additional grant program meetings.
9. The grantee will attend and/or host, at least, two BLG cohort campus visits each year (one visit in the Fall and one visit in the Spring). In addition, grantees may be asked to host an internal evaluative site visit with TEA.
10. The grantee must use an online curriculum, including an adaptive software program and Tier 1 High-Quality Instructional Material (HQIM), both approved by TEA.
11. The grantee will complete all required training(s) to build competency in the online curriculum.
12. The grantee must implement the online curriculum program in all grade levels selected to participate in the Blended Learning grant.
13. The grantee will complete annual reflection and revision plans in implementation years to continuously improve upon blended learning and/or Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations planning.
14. The applicant assures participation in TEA-approved third-party research and evaluation activities, including surveys, interviews, site visits, and the provision of requested program data, in accordance with applicable privacy laws.
15. The grantee will adhere to all statutory requirements in TEC Sections 28.020 and 29.924 including, but not limited to:
 - f. Develop a plan to implement a blended learning model according to statute requirements.
 - g. Implement the model across at least one full grade level at the campus and expand to other grade levels and/or campuses.
 - h. Require teachers to differentiate instruction for all students in a grade level using a research-backed blended learning model.
 - i. Provide teachers and other relevant personnel with professional development opportunities regarding blended learning.
 - j. Require the use of a proficiency-based assessment.

In addition to the grant-wide assurances above, the following assurances apply to the Blended Learning **Coherent Systems pathway**:

1. Submit strategic planning deliverable in the first year of implementation, such as a master schedule, assessment calendar, stakeholder engagement plan, professional learning calendars, etc.
2. The grantee will complete blended learning implementation requirements, including student progress on selected online curriculum, unit assessment data from High-Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) curriculum, and evidence of training completion.
3. The grantee must implement the digital supplemental software program according to the following grade-level participation requirements at each participating campus:
 - a. **Year 1 (2027-2028):** Implementation in at least three grade levels, including a minimum of two grades in **K-5** and one grade in **6-8**.
 - b. **Year 2 (2028-2029):** Implementation across all grades **K-8**.
 - c. **Year 3 (2029-2030):** Continued implementation across all grades **K-8**.

Note: Funding for Years 2 and 3 is contingent upon the grantee meeting all continuation of funding requirements.

In addition to the grant-wide assurances above, the following assurances apply to the Blended Learning **Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations** pathway:

1. The grantee will establish a cross-departmental steering committee, which includes a representative from the finance team, to facilitate strong planning and implementation.
2. The grantee will select one, or more, of the following strategic staffing approaches to plan for and implement: Reach More Students, Co-Teaching and Mentorship, and Schedule and/or Staffing Optimization. These staffing approaches will require significant adjustments to staffing models (e.g., one “Teacher-Leader” leading a larger group of students with the support of paraprofessionals or teacher aides).
3. The grantee will develop and submit strategic planning deliverables in the first six months of the grant (March 2027 - August 2027) tailored to the operational model selected including the following:
 - a. Staffing Template – Identify grade-level(s) + subject(s) vacancies or difficulty hiring experienced teachers will be filled with a Teacher-Leader and Associate Teachers model (1:2 ratio or higher).
 - b. Budgeting Template - A breakdown of stipends for teachers based on role + any annual retention stipends. Stipends will fall within the program range limits depending on responsibility considerations, for example:
 - i. Teacher-Leader \$3,000 - \$15,000
 - ii. Associate Teacher \$1,000 - \$8,000
 - c. Master Schedule Template – A breakdown of the Teacher-Leader and Associate Teachers weekly schedule ensuring sufficient time for operational staffing shifts, including but not limited to the following requirements:
 - iii. All participating students can meet with the Teacher-Leader in a small group setting, at least once per week.
 - iv. All participants' students have time to meet the digital supplemental products fidelity requirements (e.g., 30 minutes per week or 2 lessons per week).
 - v. Data Analysis Instructional meetings occur weekly to review formative data, including the digital supplemental dashboard.
 - vi. Instructional Planning time with Teacher-Leader and Associate Teacher(s) for HQIM lesson internalization and small group differentiation lesson planning.
4. The grantee must implement the selected instructional model in accordance with the following grade-level participation requirements at each participating campus:
 - d. **Year 1 (2027-2028):** Pilot implementation with at least one full grade level.
 - e. **Year 2 (2028-2029):** Full implementation at least one full grade level within each grade band (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8).
 - f. **Year 3 (2029-2030):** Continued implementation at least one full grade level within each grade band (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8).

Note: Funding for Years 2 and 3 is contingent upon the grantee meeting all continuation of funding requirements.

5. The grant program will be funded by reimbursement once the NOGA has been issued and the grantee submits payment requests through the Expenditure Reporting (ER) system. See [Expenditure Reporting](#). The grantee is required to regularly request payment for allowable expenditures as grant program requirements are carried out.

The program-specific assurances for this LASO program are listed in the Qualtrics application.

Program Elements

Description of Program

Blended learning combines face-to-face instruction with online learning to provide access to core Tier 1 instruction for all students, while differentiating supplemental instruction based on individual student needs through a robust, adaptive online curriculum.

The Year 1 planning phase will commence in the spring of 2027, with the Year 1 implementation phase scheduled for the fall of 2027. Implementation may continue in the 2028-2029 school year (Year 2) through the 2029-2030 school year (Year 3) through a non-competitive “continuation” grant. **School systems are only guaranteed funding for the 2027-2028 school year** (See the breakdown of continuation funding at the bottom of this section).

The **Blended Learning Coherent Systems pathway** will support school systems in designing and implementing a high-quality blended learning model in mathematics (through Math Innovation Zones, MIZ) and Reading Language Arts (RLA) that aligns Tier 1 instruction with an approved digital supplemental product. Participating school systems will establish performance management systems that use student usage, implementation fidelity, and academic outcome data to monitor progress, drive continuous improvement, and maximize the impact of blended learning in classrooms.

Awarded school systems will receive funding to plan for, implement, and sustain a high-quality blended learning model and associated performance management practices. Allowable expenditures may include salaries for a blended learning project manager, licenses for approved digital supplemental products, professional learning to support high-fidelity implementation and data-driven instructional practices, technical assistance for blended learning design and implementation, tools and supports for monitoring product usage and student outcomes, and other costs directly related to successful implementation and continuous improvement of the blended learning model.

The **Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway** will support school systems in leveraging a high-quality blended learning model to make strategic operational shifts to scheduling, staffing, and budgets. Through the integration of Tier 1 instructional materials with an approved digital supplemental product, participating school systems will redesign campus structures to deploy educator time and talent more effectively, create sustainable staffing models, and expand student access to high-quality instruction. This pathway is available to school systems that have successfully completed a Math Innovation Zones (MIZ) or Reading Language Arts (RLA) blended learning grant and are prepared to implement a blended learning model that requires significant operational and staffing changes, including **rethinking how instructional time, educator roles, and campus resources are allocated to maximize student outcomes**.

Strategic & Innovative Operations grantees will select one or more strategic staffing approaches designed to expand the impact of effective educators, strengthen instructional capacity, and improve the sustainability of campus staffing structures. Approaches may include Reach More Students, Co-Teaching and Mentorship, and Schedule and Staffing Optimization, see descriptions below:

1. **Reach More Students** | A staffing approach that expands the impact of highly effective educators by enabling a Teacher-Leader, supported by one or more associate teachers or support staff, to provide

instruction to a larger group of students than is typical in a traditional classroom. This approach leverages digital instructional tools and targeted small-group support to maintain instructional quality while increasing student access to excellent teaching.

2. **Co-Teaching and Mentorship** | A staffing approach in which a Teacher-Leader and associate teacher(s) work collaboratively to deliver instruction, analyze student data, and support learning across a larger group of students. This approach is designed to strengthen instructional quality while building the capacity and effectiveness of less experienced educators through ongoing coaching, modeling, and mentorship.
3. **Schedule and Staffing Optimization** | A staffing approach that redesigns schedules, staff roles, and resource allocation to improve operational efficiency and instructional impact. Associate teachers and support staff are deployed flexibly to maximize the time Teacher-Leaders spend directly supporting students and coaching educators, while ensuring students receive consistent access to high-quality instruction and digital learning opportunities.

*Note: **This is a three-year grant.** Year 1, LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant, spans from March 2027 through May 31, 2028, followed by the continuation grant (contingent on available funding) for Year 2 anticipated from June 2028 through April 30, 2029, and Year 3 anticipated from June 2029 through May 30, 2030, ***upon satisfactory completion of LASO 5 grant milestones, including software usage expectations and a satisfactory grantee health score***

**Based on the school systems Year 1 evaluation of required grant milestones through May 1, 2028, see details under Performance and Evaluation Section*

Note: Specific names of the grants may change from the above example.

Qualifications and Experience

The applicant agrees to provide data on the qualifications and experience of the existing or future staff members, as required per the program guidelines as follows:

- School systems must identify a school system-level project manager who is able to navigate across departments in the school system to facilitate strong planning and implementation processes, including observation/coaching of participating teachers.
- Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway should have a project manager with school system-level decision-making authority on campus staffing, scheduling, and/or budgeting.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to collect data and report on the following mandatory performance and evaluation measures:

1. The grantee must submit strategic planning deliverables such as a master schedule, assessment calendar, stakeholder engagement plan, professional learning calendars, etc.
2. The grantee will complete blended learning implementation requirements including but not limited to:
 - 2.1. Meeting the supplemental product student usage fidelity metrics.
 - 2.2. Overall grant engagement “health score”, including:
 - 2.2.1. Monthly classroom rubric observation submissions.
 - 2.2.2. Evidence of supplemental training completion.
 - 2.2.3. Cohort meetings, including site visits and an annual BL Summit.

- 2.2.4. Sharing student digital supplemental usage via the approved supplemental vendor.
- 2.2.5. Sharing year-over-year teacher retention and satisfaction data.
- 2.2.6. Completing research surveys.

Note: Grantees must meet fidelity metrics in the above areas to be eligible for continuation of grants in Year 2 and Year 3.

Limits on Contracted Evaluators

Applicants should make every effort to ensure that contracted evaluators are independent and objective.

Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Refer to the [Budgeting Costs Guidance Handbook](#) on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page for general guidance on allowable activities and use of funds.

Note regarding travel costs, if allowable per guidance below: Any personnel approved in this grant must be reimbursed for travel according to the applicant's written policies and procedures; however, reimbursement may not exceed State of Texas mileage allowance, General Services Administration (GSA) hotel rate, and per diem rate existing in the current Texas State Appropriations Act. The state travel guidelines require only reimbursement of actual costs paid and, therefore, prohibit per diem payments to travelers without reconciliation to actual costs expended. Note: Contractor travel is paid as it is described in the individual contract, not to exceed the State rates, and may or may not be delineated out specifically in the contract.

Allowable activities and use of funds for this Grant include only the following:

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Coherent Systems pathway:

- Payroll costs for the Blended Learning Program Manager or other positions that directly support the program
- Contracted Services: Funding to contract with an approved online adaptive curriculum vendor (required) for technical assistance and training and for an approved implementation vendor (optional) to support implementation of the blended model.
- Supplies and Other Programming Costs: Funding to support implementation of the blended programming, including licenses, technology, supplies related to blended learning, and personnel expenses. It is recommended for grantees to **budget 10% of their grant funds for technical assistance vendors** on the State Approved Provider List (SAPL) list.
- Teacher and/or staff extra duty/out of school time stipends for work that supports the program
- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include:
- Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514)
- Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Interest Costs (6526)

Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway

- Payroll costs for the Blended Learning Program Manager or other positions that directly support the program
- Contracted Services: funding to contract with an approved design and implementation vendor (required) for technical assistance to support planning and implementation of the new operational model. Note: It is required that school system's **budget at least 10% of awarded funds** will be dedicated to phase 2 (January 2027-August 2027) vendor support.
- Teacher and/or staff extra duty/out of school time stipends for work that supports the program
- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include: The bullets below are for SBITA, but there are other debt service possibilities.
- Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514)
- Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Interest Costs (6526)

Other Allowable Operating Costs Requiring Specific Approval in the Grant Application (6400)

Out-of-State Travel

Out-of-state travel costs are allowable.

Out-of-state travel costs should be minimal. Travel costs are allowable as long as the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items are only incurred by employees on official business of the Grantee and follow the Grantee's regular business operations and written travel policy.

Out-of-state travel will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Justification for Out-of-State Travel form, refer to the [Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification](#) page.

Stipends for Non-Employees Other Than Those Included in 6419

Stipends for non-employees other than those included in 6419 may be funded under the Grant program.

Stipends for non-employees will require pre-authorization in writing. To access the pre-authorization form for participant support costs, refer to the [Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification](#) page.

Travel Costs for Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members

Travel costs for officials such as executive director, superintendent, or board members may be funded under the Grant program.

Only the following travel costs may be allowable for these positions:

- Personalized or Blended Learning Practices
- Innovation or Technology Innovation Practices
- Leadership & Change Management

Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences

Conferences may be hosted or sponsored under the Grant program.

Conferences must be managed to minimize costs to the Grant award. The following types of conferences may

be allowable:

- Personalized or Blended Learning Practices
- Innovation or Technology Innovation Practices

Hosting or sponsoring of conferences will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Justification for Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences form, refer to the [Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification](#) page.

Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds

Refer to the [Budgeting Costs Guidance Handbook](#) on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page for general guidance on unallowable costs.

In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this grant include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — unallowable costs include:
- Capital Lease Liability — Principal Costs (6512)
- Capital Lease Liability – Interest Costs (6522)
- Interest on Debt Costs (6523)
- Audit services for state-funded grants
- Teacher salaries (stipends approved as stated in assurances section)
- Capital outlay will be approved on a case-by-case basis
- Operating transfers out
- Costs for travel for students to conferences may not be funded under the Grant program (does not include field trips).
- Field trips may not be funded under the Grant program.
- Stipends for non-employees other than those included in 6419 may not be funded under the Grant program.
- Non-employee costs for conferences may not be funded under the Grant program.
- The cost of membership in any civic or community organization may not be funded under the Grant program.
- An advisory council may not be funded under the Grant program.
- Any activity not specified above in the Allowable Activities and Use of Funds section

Expenditure Reporting (ER)

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Cash Management, as well as the [Expenditure Reporting](#) webpage.

The grant program will be funded by reimbursement once the NOGA has been issued and the grantee submits payment (drawdown) requests through the Expenditure Reporting (ER) system. The grantee is required to request payment regularly, at minimum quarterly, for allowable expenditures as grant program requirements are carried out. However, it is best practice to request funds monthly to support program implementation.

Attachments

There are two types of attachments that may be required to be submitted with your Qualtrics application:

Required Program-Related Attachments

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Required Program-Related Attachments, for a general description of program-related documents that can be required as attachments to the application.

The applicant must submit with the application the following required program-related attachments.

[Software Usage Scoring Attachment for Spring 2026](#)

Reminder: Do not submit unsolicited attachments. Unsolicited attachments will not be reviewed.

Required Fiscal-Related Attachments

No fiscal-related attachments are required for this Grant program.

Adding Attachments

The instructions in the following sections describe how to attach files to an eGrants application, if applicable.

General Instructions

The size of each attachment cannot exceed 10MB. If you have a larger file, use a different scanning setting or zip the file to make it take up less space.

The only supported browser is Google Chrome. If you are using another browser, please change to Google Chrome before attaching files.

Documents only need to be attached once. Do not attach duplicate documents when completing an amendment. Remove an existing attached document prior to attaching a new version.

Naming Attachments

Name the files you are going to attach with no spaces (for example, 501C3letter.doc or 501C3_letter.doc) and no special characters. Use a meaningful name that identifies the specific document.

Make sure that each attachment has a valid extension (.pdf, .doc, .rtf, .xls, .bmp, .txt, .docx, .xlsx).

Note that attachments with very long names may not be able to be uploaded. If you have difficulty, try renaming the file and starting over.

Scanning Documents

If a document must be scanned to create an electronic copy, use the following hints to ensure that the document size is as small as possible:

- Use an OCR or DPI setting of 200 DPI.
- Scanned files must be in PDF format.

Zippping Files

If your files are too large, add them to a zip file to save space (download a free version of [WinZip](#) and find instructions on creating zip files).

Attaching Files to an eGrants Application

1. Ensure that the document is saved on your computer, using the naming instructions above.
2. On the Grant application's Table of Contents page, select Attach File.
3. Select the appropriate radio button for a TEA Defined Attachment or an Optional Attachment.
4. Select the Browse button. A standard Windows browser appears. Find the file.
5. Select Attach.
6. Confirm the document title appears under Documents Submitted in This Version; refresh the page if necessary. If the attachment does not appear, you may have to rename your document with a shorter name and start over.
7. Repeat this process to attach all your documents.

LASO Scoring and Review

This section provides information on the scoring and review of LASO applications.

LASO Review

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Review Criteria*

Coherent Systems Scoring Table

Applicants will be prioritized in rank order based on the following criteria below:

Standard Grant Review Criteria	Description	Maximum Points Available
TEA HQIM Implementation	Successful participation and good standing in LASO Cycle 3 Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI) or	6 points
TEA HQIM Implementation	Successful participation and good standing in LASO Cycle 4 Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) or	4 points
TEA HQIM Implementation	Successful participation and good standing in LASO Cycle 2 Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI)	2 points
Instructional Day Calendar	School system implementing 165 or more instructional days	3 points

Applicants will be prioritized in rank order by participation in specified TEA initiatives. Each initiative stated in this priority tier will be ranked by percent of student population identified as economically disadvantaged.

These initiatives indicate successful planning for and implementation of core Tier 1 products, enabling readiness for the applicant to plan for and implement aligned high-quality supplemental products through the

Blended Learning Planning Grant

School systems will be ranked according to the point totals received from the priority areas discussed above and then ranked by percent of student population identified as economically disadvantaged. Of the top-ranking school systems funds will be awarded with the following prioritization:

1. First five awards will be given to the highest-ranking school systems that applied for Math
2. The rest of the awards will be given out by rank order regardless of math or reading selection until the anticipated \$1,300,000 funding for this pathway is exhausted, or all applicants within this pathway are awarded.

In the case of a tie with any resulting school systems with matching economically disadvantaged numbers, school systems will be ranked by percentage of K-8 student population participating in blended learning across the entire school system.

Total Standard Review Points Possible: 9 Points

Strategic & Innovative Operations Scoring Table

Applicants will be scored based on the following priority point categories below:

Standard Grant Review Criteria	Description	Maximum Points Available
Weekly Calendar	Implementing 165 or more instructional days (5 points)	5 points
Prior Grant Participation	TEA Strategic Staffing Initiatives • Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant • Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable, Paid Teacher Residency Program • Sustainable Residency Continuation Grant • Cycle 6 Grow Your Own (GYO) Grant (outside of LASO) • LASO 4 - PREP GYO Allotment	5 points each; maximum 25 points
BL Supplemental Product Participation	The percentage of K-8 blended learning students participating in supplemental product implementation at participating campuses(es).	1-14% 0pts 15-40% 5 pts 41-80% 10 pts 81-100% 15 pts
Evidence of Supplemental Product Fidelity	The percentage of students meeting high-fidelity usage of a supplemental product implemented during the Spring of 2026. School systems will calculate and submit the Software Usage Scoring Attachment to show "high-fidelity usage" measured as the following: the number of students at the participating campus(es) meeting research-based fidelity in Spring of 2026 for the associated blended product out of the total number of students participating in blended learning in participating	1-40% 10 pts 41-55% 15 pts 56-70% 20 pts 71-85% 25 pts 86-100% 30 pts

	campuses. Points will be awarded accordingly. TEA may request verification of campus usage evidence from product vendors for all award finalists during the application review period from the submitted Software Usage Scoring Attachment. <i>Note: School systems may be asked to have evidence confirmed by the product vendor's dashboard or report. In the case of a points tie, school systems will be ranked by percent of student population identified as economically disadvantaged.</i>	
--	---	--

Maximum Standard Grant Review Criteria

The sixteen highest-scoring applicants, based on the cumulative scores from the criteria above, will be selected as finalists and invited to participate in an oral (virtual) interview with TEA and be ranked/awarded accordingly.

Note: a minimum threshold of 20 points must be met to be ranked.

Scoring will be based on the school system (finalist) responses to questions from the following sections:

- 10 points: Alignment of Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations-BLG with overall school system strategy.
- 10 points: Understanding of operational shift requirements and planning activities
- 10 points: Presence of existing strategic staffing practices and policies to support Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations-BLG planning
- 5 points: Plans for engaging technical assistance organizations

Applicants for this pathway will be selected in rank order until funding is exhausted.

Funding Criteria

LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant – Year 1

- **Coherent Systems pathway** grantees will be funded using the following formula: $\$25,000 + (\$10,000 \times \text{\# of participating campuses, 3 campuses maximum}) + (\$40 \times \text{\# of participating students, up to 400 students maximum per campus, 3 campuses maximum})$. The maximum award is \$128,000 if awarded Math or RLA and \$178,000 if awarded math and RLA
- **Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway** grantees will be funded using the following formula: $\$60,000 + (\$30,000 \times \text{\# of participating campuses, 3 campuses maximum}) + (\$40 \times \text{\# of participating students, up to 400 students maximum per campus, 3 campuses maximum})$. There is a maximum award of \$198,000 per grantee.

Blended Learning Continuation Grant – Year 2 & Year 3

- **Coherent Systems pathway:** It is anticipated that qualifying applicants will be **awarded up to 125 percent** of their LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant award for continued execution in years 2 and 3.
- **Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway:** It is anticipated that qualifying applicants will be **awarded up to 125 percent** of their LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant award for continued execution in years 2 and 3.

This is a three-year grant. Year 1, LASO 5 Blended Learning Grant, spans from March 2027 through May 31, 2028, followed by the continuation grant (contingent on available funding) for Year 2 anticipated from June 2028 through April 30, 2029, and Year 3 anticipated from June 2029 through May 30, 2030, ***upon satisfactory completion of LASO 5 grant milestones, including software usage expectations and a satisfactory grantee health score.***

Priority Points

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Priorities for Funding.

All priority points are included in the Review Criteria Scoring Table(s) above

Oral Interviews for Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Oral Interviews for Funding.

The following applies to the **Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations pathway ONLY** (No Oral Interviews for Coherent Systems pathway)

Required attendees from school system finalists are the following:

- Superintendent or Superintendent delegate
- Proposed grant Project Manager
- Senior school system leader directly responsible for overseeing curriculum and instruction for the selected campus(es).
- Campus-level leader(s) directly responsible for overseeing implementation of blended model for the selected campus(es)

Interviews will assess readiness for a large-scale operational shift, including assessing need, leadership buy-in, and understanding of the type of shift required. School systems will be scored in the following way to determine readiness: finalists must have a **minimum score of 20 points** from the interview to be awarded, until funding is exhausted.

- Alignment of Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations-BLG with overall school system strategy for school improvement (10 pts).
- Understanding of operational shift requirements and planning activities (10 pts).
- Presence of existing strategic staffing practices and policies to support Blended Learning Strategic & Innovative Operations-BLG planning (10 pts).
- Plans for engaging technical assistance organizations (5 pts).