

Informal Discretionary Competitive (IDC Grant)

LASO 2026-2027 (Cycle 5)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2027-2029 Local Accountability System (LAS) Planning Grant Program Guidelines

Authorized by: General Appropriations Act, House Bill 8, 89th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, Section 39.0544(f), Texas Education Code

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.....	6
Resources Available to Help Applicants Select the Most Appropriate Initiative(s).....	7
LASO at a Glance	7
Authorizing Legislation	7
Where to Submit the LASO Application	7
Purpose of Program	7
Eligible Applicants	8
Application Funding	9
Limitation of Administrative Funds	9
LASO Application Requirements and Assurances	10
Program Elements	13
Allowable Activities and Use of Funds.....	14
Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds	15
Expenditure Reporting (ER)	16
Attachments	16
Required Program-Related Attachments	16
Optional Program-Related Attachments	16
Required Fiscal-Related Attachments	16
LAS Scoring and Review	17
LAS Review and Funding Criteria.....	17
Priority Points.....	18
Oral Interviews for Funding	19

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, and 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: Laura Wake, Manager of Local Accountability Systems

Primary Program Contact Email: las@tea.texas.gov

Primary Program Contact Phone: (512) 463-9912

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	\$3,400,000
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	\$3,400,000

**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 TEA Grant Opportunities , Frequently Asked Questions
October 21, 2026, 10:30 a.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #1 Registration links found on the LASO website
October 26, 2026, 1:30 p.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #2 Registration links found on the LASO website
November 1, 2026	FAQ question submission deadline
November 5, 2026, 10:30 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
March 2, 2027	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period
January 30, 2029	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding)
April 30, 2029	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.

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 initiative is authorized by House Bill 8, 89th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, Section 39.0544(f), Texas Education Code, Local Accountability Plan 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

House Bill (HB) 22, passed by the 85th Texas Legislature in 2017, established the Local Accountability System (LAS) to allow school systems and open-enrollment charter schools to develop local accountability plans for their campuses. Local accountability plans can capture and showcase outcomes aligned with locally determined needs and strengths.

The LAS is a school system-wide initiative through which school systems and open-enrollment charter schools develop a plan to evaluate the performance of their campuses locally. LAS seeks to: 1) engage the community and school system in establishing locally relevant accountability measures; 2) provide parents, families, and communities with detailed information about local school performance and progress over time; 3) continuously improve student performance and preparedness for post-secondary success.

The Local Accountability System Planning Grant provides assistance to school systems in developing a local accountability plan that complies with the requirements outlined in Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.0544. This program is authorized by TEC §39.0544(f), as added by HB 8, 89th Texas Legislature, which states: *From money appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the agency shall establish a grant program to assist at least one school system in each education service center region in developing a local accountability plan that complies with the requirements of this section.*

The Local Accountability System Planning Grant will

1. provide school systems with funding to support the development and implementation of local accountability plans, including resources for LAS planning activities such as data management, professional development, stakeholder engagement, data collection tools, and innovative initiatives aimed at continuous improvement of student performance, and
2. provide targeted technical assistance from qualified Technical Advisors with demonstrated expertise in local accountability system frameworks, approaches, and strategies.

Local accountability plans are generally implemented within a two-year framework. The first year is dedicated to planning activities, gathering community input, and collecting baseline data. The second year focuses on plan implementation, approval by the governing board, approval by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and ongoing data collection. Data collected during the second year is subsequently used to inform campus local accountability ratings. School systems and open-enrollment charter schools that have already gathered community input and established baseline data for their local accountability plan components may proceed directly to the second year of implementation.

Eligible Applicants

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

School systems and open-enrollment charter schools are eligible to apply.

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

***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.*

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

Eligibility List

There is not an eligibility list for this grant/initiative. All school systems and open-enrollment charter schools are eligible to apply.

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 20 school systems will be awarded up to \$250,000 (estimated \$170,000 in direct funds, \$80,000 in-kind technical assistance).

Local Accountability System Planning Grant:

It is anticipated that a range of 15-25 applicants will be awarded a range of \$135,000 to \$225,000 each, with final funding amounts depending on the number and quality of applications, the feasibility and monetary efficiency of the applicant's budget plan, and at the discretion of the TEA program area. Applicants may be awarded a proportional share of their originally submitted budget.

** 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.*

***In addition to this funding, a TEA-approved provider will deliver targeted technical assistance through qualified Technical Advisors with demonstrated expertise in local accountability system frameworks, strategies, and implementation approaches.*

****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

One award will be issued to the highest-scoring applicant in each ESC region. Any remaining funds will be awarded to additional applicants in rank order according to review scores.

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 not 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 direct administrative costs for this grant program to no more than 10% of the total grant award.

Indirect Costs

For this state-funded grant, the grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to the lesser of its current, approved unrestricted 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.

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

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

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

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

- Statutory requirements (requirements defined in the authorizing statute)
- TEA program requirements (requirements defined by TEA program staff)

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.

There are no statutorily required responses for this grant/initiative opportunity.

TEA Application Required Responses

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

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements. Applicants must address within the application how they will achieve the following:

1. Summary of Project:
 - a. The applicant will show in the project proposal how the local accountability plan drives

improved student outcomes and aligns with the school system's mission, vision, and goals.

2. Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:
 - a. The applicant will describe how the goals and objectives will be used to define the program.
 - b. The applicant will describe strategies to meet the goals and objectives of the program.
3. Performance and Evaluation Measures of the Grant Program:
 - a. The applicant describes the performance management routines to ensure progress monitoring to drive achievement of grant outcomes.
4. Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel:
 - a. The applicant describes the qualifications and experience of an existing staff member who will be responsible for this program.
5. Budget Narrative:
 - a. The applicant will describe in its proposal the project budget and how this will meet the needs and goals of the program, including staffing, project design, and resources needed to support the implementation of the grant.
6. Parent and Community Involvement:
 - a. The applicant will describe the plan to engage families and the community to gather input to inform components in the local accountability plan.
7. Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for Local Accountability Plan Anticipated Components:
 - a. The applicant describes existing programs and measures that may be included in the local accountability plan.
 - b. The applicant describes the anticipated components to be included in the local accountability plan from new programs and resources.
8. Sustainability of Project:
 - a. applicant describes how the program will sustain after the grant period.

Statutory or Program-Specific Assurances

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

1. 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.
2. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the Program Guidelines.
3. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The school system will maintain current contact information in AskTED to ensure timely communication.
9. The school system will participate in all required meetings and submit evidence of implementation at a monthly or quarterly cadence.
10. The school system will regularly submit their expenditures in the form of an official financial record on a quarterly basis for subrecipient monitoring purposes. The submission must be from an official accounting system.
11. The applicant assures that they have read the [Local Accountability System Technical Guide](#).
12. The applicant assures that they agree to participate in recurring meetings with the technical assistance provider who will assist with program requirements and ensure the plan adheres to Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.0544 and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.1003.
13. The applicant assures that they understand the technical assistance will be provided through the Local Accountability Plan Technical Assistance Non-Competitive Grant, and is not meant to be funded through the Local Accountability Plan Competitive Grant opportunity.
14. The applicant assures they will prepare a local accountability plan for TEA approval. The plan will be in effect for a 5-year cycle. The plan submission for those on the typical two-year process will submit the LAS plan to TEA by the last week of September 2028. The plan submission for those who have collected community input, baseline data, and choose to forgo the planning year will submit the LAS Plan for approval by the last week of September 2027. School systems and open-enrollment charter schools must present a well-structured local accountability plan that meets the standards of acceptable or above as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) on pages 18-19.
15. The applicant assures that the created local accountability plan will:

- a. Engage the community and school system in establishing locally relevant accountability measures;
- b. Provide parents, families, and communities with detailed information about local school performance and progress over time; and
- c. Continuously improve student performance and preparedness for post-secondary success.

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

Program Elements

Description of Program

Grantees must prepare a local accountability plan for TEA approval. The plan will be in effect for a 5-year cycle. The plan submission for those on the typical two-year process will submit the LAS plan to TEA by the last week of September 2028. The plan submission for those who have collected community input, baseline data, and choose to forgo the planning year will submit the LAS Plan for approval by the last week of September 2027.

School systems and open-enrollment charter schools must present a well-structured local accountability plan that meets the standards of acceptable or above as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) on pages 18-19.

The local accountability plan must:

- Engage the community and school system in establishing locally relevant accountability measures.
- Provide parents, families, and communities with detailed information about local school performance and progress over time.
- Continuously improve student performance and preparedness for post-secondary success.

Through the integration of these criteria, the recipient selection process is designed to foster a holistic and inclusive approach to creating a local accountability system to drive improved student outcomes.

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:

- Leadership and project management experience.
- Experience with problem-solving and finding innovative solutions.
- Experience with state accountability system.
- Experience engaging with the community to support educational outcomes.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

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

Family Engagement:

- 10% annual increase over baseline in family engagement as determined by local accountability plan

Student Outcomes:

- 5% annual increase over baseline in local accountability ratings.

School systems and open-enrollment charter schools doing the two-year planning process:

- Submit a detailed community engagement plan for obtaining input for components to include in the Local Accountability Plan by September 2027. Include a mechanism for measuring family engagement and baseline data.
- Submit a completed [Local Accountability System Planning Tool Part I](#) by the last week of April 2028. Part I must meet a level 4 or 5 on each element in the included rubric.
- Submit a completed [Local Accountability System Planning Tool Part II](#) by the last week of July 2028. Part II must meet a level 4 or 5 on each element in the included rubric.
- Submit the complete Local Accountability System Plan for TEA approval. The plan must meet all requirements as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) and meet the Acceptable rating on the Plan Rubric, as listed on pages 18-19, by the last week of September 2028 including documentation of board approval.
- Submit local accountability ratings in the first week of July 2029 on the provided TEA Excel sheet.

School systems and open-enrollment charter schools that have collected community input and baseline data and will only be doing the second year:

- Submit a detailed community engagement plan indicating completed activities by the last week of June 2027. Include mechanism for measuring family engagement and baseline data.
- Submit a completed [Local Accountability System Planning Tool Part I](#) by the last week of July 2027. Both Parts I and II must meet a level 4 or 5 on each element in the included rubric.
- Submit a completed [Local Accountability System Planning Tool Part II](#) by the last week of July 2027. Both Parts I and II must meet a level 4 or 5 on each element in the included rubric.
- Submit a completed Local Accountability System Plan for TEA approval. The plan must meet all requirements as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) and meet the Acceptable rating on the Plan Rubric as listed on pages 18-19 by the last week of September 2027 including documentation of board approval.
- Submit local accountability ratings in the first week of July 2028 on the provided TEA excel sheet.

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

- Payroll costs.
- Hiring or funding 1.0 full-time employee (FTE) to manage the local accountability system planning process.
- Costs associated with the development of all grant requirements.
- Professional and contracted services.
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials.
- Local Accountability System planning expenditures for plan creation and component data management.
- Educator training.
- Community engagement activities.
- Data collection tools.

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

- An advisory council may be funded under this grant program. Only the following types of advisory council costs may be allowable:
 - a. Parent Advisory Council focused on the components of a Local Accountability Plan
 - b. Community Advisory Council focused on the components of a Local Accountability Plan

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
- Out-of-State Travel
- Travel for Students to Conferences
- Field Trips
- Stipends for Non-Employees
- Non-Employee Costs for Conferences
- Travel Costs for Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members

- Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization
- Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences
- 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 application:

Required Program-Related Attachments

No program-related attachments are required for this grant/initiative program.

Optional Program-Related Attachments

The following are optional attachments for priority points to be awarded to applicants:

- **Evidence of Innovation Office (5 priority points).** The school system must have hired a school transformation or innovation officer to support the school system's planning process. The applicant may attach either a copy or a hyperlink (URL) to the school system's organization chart highlighting the eligible position.
- **Evidence of Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) (5 points).** The school system must have a TIA program fully approved. The applicant may attach a copy of their TIA status.
- **Evidence of Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) Participation (5 points).** The school system must have been invited to engage in the 2026-2027 Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) grant and be actively participating. Active participation includes submitting signed assurances to the TEA by May 29, 2026. The applicant may attach a copy of the signed assurances submitted to the Agency.
- **Evidence of Campus 2026 A-F Accountability Ratings meeting standards and not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements (5 points).** The school system must have all campuses meeting academic accountability standards as indicated on the 2026 accountability ratings. The applicant may attach a statement that their school system or open-enrollment charter school 2026 A-F Accountability Listing meets standards and is not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements.

Required Fiscal-Related Attachments

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fiscal-Related Documentation Required to Be on File, for a general description of fiscal-related documents that can be required as attachments to the application.

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

LAS Scoring and Review

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

LAS Review and Funding Criteria

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Review Criteria: Application Scoring Rubric Rated 1-5

- **Needs Improvement (1 point).** Did not describe how the required component would be achieved.
- **Meets Standard (3 points).** Response contains the required elements but may not have the clarity or specificity for a comprehensive response.
- **Outstanding Response (5 points).** Response is complete, clear, and specific, providing the reviewer with a comprehensive understanding of the requirement.

Criteria	Description	Points
Summary of Project (Application Question 1a)	Quality of description outlining the local accountability plan, including: • A clear rationale for initiating a local accountability plan • An explanation of how the system will drive improved student outcomes • Evidence of alignment with and support for the school system's mission, vision, and strategic goals	5
Goals and Objectives, and Strategy (2a)	Quality of description of the goals and objectives of the proposed program.	5
Goals and Objectives, and Strategy (2b)	Quality of description of the goals and objectives of the proposed program.	5
Performance and Evaluation Measures of the Grant Program (3a)	Quality of description of performance management routines that will be developed to ensure progress monitoring will drive the achievement of predetermined grant outcomes.	5
Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel (4a)	The qualifications and experience of existing staff member responsible for this program: • Leadership and project management experience. • Experience with problem-solving and finding innovative solutions • Experience with state accountability system • Experience engaging with the community to support educational outcomes	5

Budget Narrative (5a)	Quality of description of how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including staffing, project design, and resources needed to support the implementation of the grant.	5
Parent and Community Involvement (6a)	Quality of description of how families and community members will be actively involved in providing input on the components to include in the local accountability plan and how family engagement will be measured.	5
Local Accountability Plan Anticipated Components (7a)	Quality of description of existing programs and measurement tools that may be included as components in the local accountability plan, including: • Grade level(s) • Current baseline data	5
Local Accountability Plan Components (7b)	Quality of description of new programs and measurement tools that may be included as components in the local accountability plan, including: • Grade level(s) • Anticipated baseline data collection date	5
Sustainability of Project (8a)	Quality of description of how the program will be sustained beyond the life of the grant.	5

Total Standard Review Points possible: **50 Points**

All school systems with at least a 165-instructional-day calendar will be prioritized.

In the case of a tie, school systems may be invited to an interview, and points received will be in addition to prioritization above.

Priority Points

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

The following priority points will be awarded to applicants:

- **Evidence of Innovation Office (5 points).** The school system must have hired a school transformation or innovation officer to support the school system's planning process. The applicant may attach a copy of the school system's organization chart highlighting the eligible position.
- **Evidence of Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) (5 points).** The school system must have a TIA program fully approved. The applicant may attach a copy of their TIA status.
- **Evidence of Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) Participation (5 points).** The school system must have been invited to engage in the 2026-2027 Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) grant and be actively participating. Active participation includes submitting signed assurances to the TEA by May 29, 2026. The applicant may attach a copy of the signed assurances submitted to the Agency.

- **Evidence of Campus 2026 A-F Accountability Ratings meeting standards and not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements (5 points).** The school system must have all campuses meeting academic accountability standards (an overall rating of **C or better**) as indicated on the 2026 accountability ratings. The applicant may attach a statement that their school system or Open-enrollment Charter School 2026 A-F Accountability Listing meets standards and are not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements.

Total Priority Points available: **20 Points**

Oral Interviews for Funding

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

In the case of a tie, school systems may be invited to an interview, and points received will be in addition to prioritization above.