

Informal Discretionary Competitive (IDC Grant)

LASO 2026-2027 (Cycle 5)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2026-2027 LIFT School Improvement Accelerator (LIFT SI A) Program Guidelines

Authorized by Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965,
as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title I, Part A,
Section 1003.

Grant Application Due Date

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



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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

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.

requesting a TEAL 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.
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 Farber, Associate Commissioner of High Quality Instructional Materials Implementation

Additional Program Contact: Chris Vargo, Principal Director of Leadership, Engagement & Operations

Program Contact Email: <https://helpdesk.tea.texas.gov/LIFT>

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	\$22,000,000
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	100%
Amount of federal funds	\$22,000,000
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources	0%
Amount of nonfederal funds	\$0

**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 7, 2026, 1:30 PM CT	Program Specific Webinar #1 Registration links found on the LASO website
October 19, 2026, 9:00 AM CT	Program Specific Webinar #2 Registration links found on the LASO website
November 1, 2026	FAQ question submission deadline
November 6, 2026, 10:30 AM 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
June 02, 2028	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding)
August 31, 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 initiative is authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title I, Part A, Section 1003.

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 LIFT School Improvement Accelerator grant (LIFT SI A) is a targeted, Title I-funded initiative designed to enhance implementation support for campuses participating in the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) program that are also identified for School Improvement. This grant provides additional

resources, such as expanded PLC facilitation, increased observation and feedback, and individualized coaching to strengthen instructional systems and ensure effective use of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). The goal is to deepen and sustain effective instructional practices by reinforcing the conditions necessary for strong HQIM implementation, ultimately improving student outcomes on federally identified campuses.

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible campuses include campuses that are Title I served with a 2026 federal accountability identification, including Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), or Additional Targeted Support (ATS). Comprehensive campuses in their second year of identification (Comprehensive Reidentified or Comprehensive Progress) are also eligible. Campuses must remain in operation during the grant cycle and remain Title I served for the 2027-28 school year. Note: a school system is eligible to apply to both Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) and The LIFT School Improvement Accelerator grant (LIFT SI), but in the event that both are awarded, the school system must select the same Approved Provider for both LIFT and the LIFT SI Accelerator Support grant.

Applicants must also meet all eligibility standards outlined in the General and Fiscal Guidelines and the Program Guidelines.

***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.

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 200–350 applicants will be awarded. Each participating campus may receive \$60,000 for the first instructional leader and an additional \$30,000 for the second instructional leader, giving a total maximum award of up to \$90,000. This funding is in addition to funding awarded by the core LIFT grant.

** 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/The authorizing statute limits the amount of direct administrative costs for this grant program to no more than 8% of the total grant award.

Indirect Costs

For this federally grant program, the grantee may claim a maximum for allowable indirect costs equal to its current approved restricted indirect cost rate.

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

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.

The applicant must comply with each of these requirements in the application to be considered for funding:

1. Each school the school system proposes to serve will receive all of the State and local funds it would have received in the absence of funds received under this grant.
2. Support schools developing or implementing targeted support and improvement plans under ESEA section 1111(d)(3)(A), if funds received under this section are used for such purpose.
3. Monitor schools receiving funds under this section, including how the local educational agency will carry out its responsibilities under clauses (iv) and (v) of ESEA section 1111(d)(3)(B) if funds received under this section are used to support schools implementing targeted support and improvement plans.
4. Align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under subsection (b)(1) 4. Align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under subsection (b)(1).
5. As appropriate, modify practices and policies to provide operational flexibility that enables full and effective implementation of the plans.

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:

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.

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 2026-2027 LIFT School Improvement Accelerator (LIFT SI A) Program Guidelines.
4. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2026-2027 LIFT School Improvement Accelerator (LIFT SI A) Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
5. The applicant assures that they accept and will comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act's Provisions and Assurances requirements.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The school system will maintain current contact information in AskTED to ensure timely communication.
11. The school system will regularly submit its expenditures (monthly preferred, quarterly at minimum) to remain on track for grant expenditures.
12. The school system will participate in all required meetings and submit evidence of implementation at a monthly or quarterly cadence.
13. The applicant assures the school system will meet all program-specific assurances (in addition to meeting all LIFT assurances), including:

- a. Committing to implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2027–28 school year.
- b. Securing approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
- c. Contracting with a single Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 5 State Approved Provider list for the duration of the program. Approved Providers included on the LASO Cycle 5 State Approved Provider list have been vetted and approved by the LIFT program and have demonstrated the capacity to effectively deliver the required grant-related technical assistance and support.
- d. Contracting with the same provider from the LASO Cycle 5 State Approved Provider list that is providing technical assistance for the LIFT program for LIFT SI Accelerator supports.
- e. Engaging relevant school system and campus leaders, as well as teachers and instructional coaches, in upfront training, implementation support, and coaching. These individuals must be in addition to and distinct from leaders receiving coaching through the LIFT program.
- f. Submitting all required grant artifacts, including the submission of a Targeted Improvement Plan.
- g. Each school the school system proposes to serve will receive all of the State and local funds it would have received in the absence of funds received under this grant.
- h. Submitting provider contracts and required funding summary reports to TEA.
- i. Appointing a designated lead as the primary point of contact and identifying at least two additional contacts.
- j. Permitting Approved Providers access to campuses to provide in-person support.
- k. Ensuring teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols.
- l. Providing print materials for all participating teachers and students.
- m. Following the year-long scope and sequence for the instructional materials.
- n. Meeting the minimum number of instructional minutes for the instructional materials.
- o. Using grant funds in alignment with the required allocation structure and ensuring all expenditures support the goals of the LIFT program
- p. Participating in required TEA-led activities, including a grant kick-off. The program-specific assurances for this Grant program are listed in the Grant application.

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

Program Elements

Description of Program

The LIFT School Improvement Accelerator grant provides targeted implementation support to campuses participating in the LIFT program that are also identified for School Improvement under federal accountability. This grant is designed to reinforce high-fidelity implementation of Bluebonnet Learning through enhanced instructional systems support. Campuses receive additional resources such as:

- In-person facilitated Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) focused on HQIM internalization,
- Increased in-person observation and feedback cycles, and

- One-on-one coaching for instructional leaders and teachers.

These in-person supports are intended to deepen instructional practices, strengthen schoolwide systems, and accelerate student learning outcomes. The grant complements the broader LIFT initiative by intensifying support for federally identified campuses, ensuring the conditions necessary for sustained HQIM implementation are in place.

Technical assistance is provided by a high-quality Approved Provider selected from the LASO Cycle 5 State Approved Provider List (SAPL). Approved Providers on the LASO Cycle 5 SAPL have been vetted and approved through the LIFT program and have demonstrated the capacity to effectively deliver the required grant-related technical assistance and support.

Grant Fund Allocation

School systems are required to use:

- 50% of grant funds to contract with a single Approved Provider per instructional material from the LASO Cycle 5 Approved Provider List for LIFT and LIFT SI Accelerator to support grant activities. School systems must contract with the same Approved Provider for both LIFT and LIFT SI Accelerator.
- 50% of grant funds for additional support from the Approved Provider and/or salaries, partial salaries, or stipends for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting PLC facilitation and implementation of the instructional materials.

The school system must select the same Approved Provider for both LIFT and the LIFT SI Accelerator grant.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to collect data and report on the following mandatory performance and evaluation measures: The school system must submit data as requested by TEA, in accordance with TEA guidance, including, but not limited to:

- Artifact submissions using TEA-provided templates.
- Surveys of teachers, coaches, school leaders/campus administrators, and school system leads prior to and during the school year administered by TEA.
- Submission of observation and assessment data as requested by the Approved Provider or TEA.

Limits on Contracted Evaluators

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

Debt and Audit Services

Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include SBITA, but there are other non-allowable debt service options (see unallowable)

- a. Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514)
- b. Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Interest Costs (6526)

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.
- Professional and contracted services.

50% of grant funds must be used to contract with a single Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 5 Approved Provider List for LIFT and LIFT SI Accelerator services. School systems must contract with the same Approved Provider for both LIFT and LIFT SI Accelerator supports.

50% of grant funds may be used for additional support from the Approved Provider and/or salaries, partial salaries, or stipends for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting implementation of the instructional materials.

This can include:

- Additional support from the Approved Provider;
- Salaries for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting PLC facilitation and implementation of instructional materials;
- Partial salaries for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting implementation of instructional materials;
- Stipends for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting implementation of instructional materials; and
- Salaries, partial salaries, stipends, or other personnel costs for positions directly supporting meaningful access systems and content supports.

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:

- Out-of-state travel
- Consumable and durable educational supplies and materials
- 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 not associated

with the grant activities

- Cost of membership in any civic or community organization
- Hosting or sponsoring of conferences
- Advisory council
- Stipends or salaries for positions not directly supporting grant activities
- Capital Outlay Costs

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.

Federal Grant Requirements

Equitable Access and Participation

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Equitable Access and Participation.

This requirement does apply to this federally funded Grant program.

Private Nonprofit School Participation

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Private Nonprofit School Participation.

This requirement does apply to this federally funded Grant program.

Maintenance of Effort

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Maintenance of Effort.

This requirement does apply to this federally funded Grant program.

Attachments

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

Required Program-Related Attachments

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

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 and Funding Criteria

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

Tier	Condition
Tier 1	CSI Campuses: Campuses with a 2026 federal accountability identification of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Comprehensive Reidentified, or Comprehensive Progress.
Tier 2	ATS Campuses: Campuses with a 2026 federal accountability identification of Additional Targeted Support (ATS).
Tier 3	TSI Campuses: Campuses with a 2026 federal accountability identification of Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI).

Within each tier, eligible campuses will be rank-ordered from lowest to highest based on their applicable campus STAAR performance aligned to the Bluebonnet Learning product(s) requested. Applicable STAAR measures include Grade 3 RLA for K-5 RLA applications, Grade 3 Mathematics for K-5 Mathematics applications, and Algebra I for secondary mathematics applications. For applications with multiple products, the lowest applicable rate of STAAR proficiency score for each campus will be used for ranking purposes.

School systems with calendars containing less than 165 instructional days will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. If your calendar has 165 or more instructional days, or if you're moving to >165 days, you will be prioritized. School systems without a full feeder pattern (K–12) will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. School systems with a full feeder pattern will be prioritized. School systems that have an interlocal agreement with another school system governed by TEC §25.039 will be considered as having a full K–12 feeder pattern.

All eligible applicants will be categorized in priority tiers as noted above with grant funds awarded as follows:

- Grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 1st priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants in the 1st priority tier have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 2nd priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants in the 2nd priority tier have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 3rd priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

School systems with calendars <165 instructional days will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. If your calendar has >165 instructional days, or if you're moving to >165 instructional days, you will be prioritized.

School systems without a full feeder pattern (K-12) will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. If your school system has a full feeder pattern, you will be prioritized.

Priority Points

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

Priority points do not apply to this grant

Oral Interviews for Funding

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

Oral Interviews do not apply to this grant.