

Informal Discretionary Competitive (IDC Grant)

LASO 2026-2027 (Cycle 5)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2026-2027 Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas 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. CT



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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 requesting a TEAL account:
 - a. Entity name

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.

- 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 Notice

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 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	\$23,000,000
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	100%
Amount of federal funds	\$23,000,000
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.
. October 7, 2026, 3:00 p.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #1 Registration links found on the LASO website
October 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #2 Registration links found on the LASO website .
November 1, 2026	FAQ question submission deadline
November 6, 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
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 2, 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

LIFT (Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas) is a three-year program designed to support Texas school systems in building the instructional and systems-level capacity needed to deliver high-quality learning experiences for all students. LIFT brings together the highest leverage components of Strong Foundations, Texas Instructional Leadership, and Texas Lesson Study, providing comprehensive support for school systems to adopt HQIM and implement Bluebonnet Learning over multiple years.

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible applicants are school systems with campuses that are Title I served with a 2026 federal accountability identification, including Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Additional Targeted Support (ATS), or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). 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 maintain Title I status for the 2026-2027 school year.

Eligibility must be maintained throughout full program implementation.

***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 an eligibility list and it is posted in the Application and Support Information section of the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page.

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 15-63 applicants will be awarded grants ranging from \$365,000 to \$1,500,000 per school system, with the award amount being based on the number of selected products, the number of participating campuses, and the number of school system leaders participating. The specific award amounts are found using the formula below for the initial implementation year:

Initial Implementation Year Grant:

- \$365,000 per school system with one selected product, one participating campus, and one associated school system leader (principal manager recommended) participating.
- \$37,000 for each additional selected product.
- \$29,000 for each additional campus, which includes funding to support one participating campus leader at that campus, with another \$9,000 per campus for every additional selected product.
- \$44,000 per additional associated school system leader (principal manager recommended) participating.
- If an award would exceed \$1,500,000 based on the number of products and participants, that award will instead be \$1,500,000.

Funds will only be provided for additional participating school system leaders if they directly manage at least 5 participating campus leaders.

Funding Example:

- Grant for Initial Implementation Year with one product, three participating campuses and one principal manager:

- \$423,000 (\$365,000 + \$29,000 x 2 additional campuses)
- Grant for Initial Implementation Year with two selected products, 10 participating campuses, and two principal managers:
 - \$751,000 (\$365,000 + (\$29,000 + \$9,000 x 1 additional product) x 9 additional campuses + \$44,000 x 1 additional school system leader)

** 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.*

Continuation Funding

LIFT is a three-year grant program designed to support sustained implementation over time. While grantees are awarded into a three-year grant cycle, funding is awarded annually and remains contingent upon available funds, grantee performance, and continued eligibility. Annual continuation awards are anticipated to range from \$255,500 to \$1,050,000.

LASO Cycle 5 represents Year 1 of the three-year grant cycle. Continuation funding for Years 2 and 3 is not automatic and will be awarded based on continued eligibility and successful program implementation. To remain eligible for continuation funding, grantees must:

- Implement Bluebonnet Learning in alignment with the approved LIFT award.
- Meet all programmatic, fiscal, and reporting requirements.
- Demonstrate progress toward program goals and implementation milestones.
- Actively engage in required training, coaching, and technical assistance activities.
- Maintain compliance with all grant assurances and artifact submission requirements.

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 direct administrative costs for this grant program to no more than 8% of the total grant award.

Indirect Costs

For this grant program, the grantee may claim a maximum for allowable indirect costs equal to its current approved restricted 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 that 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 school system 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)
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.

There are no TEA required responses.

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 LIFT Program Guidelines.
4. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the LIFT 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 Every Student Succeeds Act 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. **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 its expenditures (monthly preferred, quarterly at minimum) to remain on track for grant expenditures.
11. The applicant ensures the school system will meet all program-specific assurances, including:
 - a. The school system will participate in all required meetings and submit evidence of implementation at a monthly or quarterly cadence.
 - b. Committing to (with Board approval) implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–2027 school year.
 - c. Securing approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
 - d. Appointing a designated LIFT Lead as the primary point of contact and identifying at least two additional contacts. The primary point of contact should be the equivalent of a senior academic team member or manager of campus principals.
 - e. Certifying that the school system did not receive an award through the LASO Cycle 4 Leadership Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) grant.
 - f. 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.
 - g. Participating in required TEA-led activities, including a grant kick-off.
 - h. Engaging relevant school system and campus leaders, including special programs' leadership, as well as teachers, instructional coaches, special population educators and leaders, in upfront

training, implementation support, and coaching.

- i. Participating in a needs assessment of current instructional practices and materials.
- j. Establishing or refining systems for instructional leadership, including schoolwide routines, observation and feedback, and student work analysis protocols.
- k. Submitting all required grant artifacts, including instructional framework artifacts, implementation plans, school system-level instructional materials transition plans, campus-level implementation action plans, classroom, campus, and school system-level observation data through the Instructional Insights App (IIA) or an IIA-integrated third-party vendor, and student outcomes data and progress updates as requested by the Approved Provider or TEA.
- l. Participating in TEA-administered surveys and/or focus groups, as requested. Using grant funds in alignment with the required allocation structure and ensuring all expenditures support the goals of the LIFT program.
- m. Permitting Approved Providers access to campuses to provide in-person support.
- n. Ensuring teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols.
- o. Providing print materials for all participating teachers and students.
- p. Following the year-long scope and sequence for the instructional materials, where applicable.
- q. Meeting the minimum number of instructional minutes for the instructional materials.
- r. Ensuring that a number of instructional leaders, aligned with school system size, will actively participate in monthly implementation support and coaching provided by the Approved Provider.
- s. Ensuring that the school system cabinet regularly engages in data reflection and performance management routines.
- t. Ensuring that implementation occurs only on campuses awarded through LASO Cycle 5 and notify the LIFT team of any changes to participating campuses. Such changes may include, but are not limited to, campus closures, reconfigurations, or campuses that are no longer implementing Bluebonnet instructional materials.
- u. Submitting a Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for each campus participating in LIFT for SY 27-28.
- v. Maintaining or transition to an instructional calendar of at least 165 instructional days.
- w. 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.

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

Program Elements

Description of Program

LIFT (Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas) is a three-year program designed to support Texas school systems in building the instructional and systems-level capacity needed to deliver high-quality learning experiences for all students. LIFT provides comprehensive support for school systems to adopt high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) and implement Bluebonnet Learning over multiple years. The vision for LIFT is for all Texas students to have access to rigorous, grade-level content and instruction every day.

The program is structured to support school systems at various stages of implementation, providing capacity-building support and technical assistance to strengthen instructional practices in math or literacy. LIFT is grounded in the belief that sustainable instructional improvement requires a clear vision, strong leadership, aligned systems, and high-quality instructional materials. The program supports school systems in developing and executing a coherent instructional framework, strengthening school-wide instructional practices, and building the internal capacity needed to effectively implement, monitor, and sustain continuous improvement over time.

LIFT is for school systems with federally identified and Title I campuses in school systems implementing a Bluebonnet Learning product in the 2027–2028 school year. LIFT focuses on strengthening instructional leadership in service of implementing Bluebonnet Learning and improving instructional quality and school climate.

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 has demonstrated the capacity to effectively deliver the required grant-related technical assistance and support.

Technical assistance may include:

- Conducting a Needs Assessment of current instructional materials and practices to inform Bluebonnet Learning Implementation, readiness. And support customized Approved Provider support.
- Support in developing a shared vision for excellent instruction rooted in RBIS, along with clear expectations and aligned systems for HQIM implementation.
- Providing upfront training to build a shared understanding of the mindsets, skills, and systems needed for sustained instructional leadership and HQIM implementation.
- Supporting the development of schoolwide routines and observation/feedback systems to establish RBIS-aligned learning environments.
- Developing school system-level action plans.
- Providing upfront training and ongoing implementation support for school and school system leaders.
- Coaching instructional leaders to close practice gaps, implement HQIM with fidelity, and lead effective feedback cycles.
- Conducting classroom observations to assess and support implementation fidelity, including at least eighteen observations alongside the Approved Provider.
- Facilitating high-quality professional learning (HQPL) for teachers and coaches.
- Supporting teachers with lesson internalization, PLC engagement, student work analysis, and use of HQIM-embedded scaffolds.
- Helping school system stakeholders strengthen performance management systems and align structures for sustained success.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to collect data and report on the following mandatory performance and evaluation measures, including, but not limited to:

- Submission of required artifacts, including planning artifacts, teacher IDs, and class rosters, using TEA-provided templates. Examples include diagnostics, rollout plans, observation and feedback cycles,

student assessment data, coaching plans, and professional learning session plans.

- Active participation in implementation supports and coaching activities, such as calibration walks and the use of observation and feedback tools.
- Engagement in TEA-administered surveys for stakeholder committees, teachers, coaches, school leaders, and school system leaders.
- Collection and submission of classroom observation and professional learning communities data to support and assess implementation fidelity.
- Provision of artifacts demonstrating systems-building efforts, such as lesson internalization supports, student work analysis protocols, and feedback routines. Submission of artifacts using TEA templates

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

School systems are required to use a minimum of 70% of grant funds to contract with a single LIFT Approved Provider to support grant activities and may use up to 30% of grant funds for other allowable expenses.

Other allowable expenses include, as applicable to the core approved instructional materials awarded:

- Professional and Contracted Services (e.g., additional services from Approved Providers, academic reviews)
- Salary or partial salary for instructional coaches, special education support positions, or other staff directly supporting implementation of the instructional materials and related systems that ensure meaningful access to grade-level content for all students, **excluding administrator salaries.**
- Stipends for teachers implementing the instructional materials
- Stipends for instructional coaches supporting implementation of the instructional materials
- Substitute coverage for teachers attending internalization days
- In-state travel to support grant activities (e.g., site visits to Bluebonnet Beacons Learning Labs)
- Licenses for supplemental materials as listed below
 - Math:

- Carnegie Mathia (K-8, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)
- iReady Math (K-8, Algebra I)
- IXL Math (PK-12)
- MyMathAcademy (PK-2)
- ST Math (PK-8)
- Zearn Math (K-8, Algebra I)
- SpringMath Accelerate (K-12)
- Reading/Language Arts:
 - Amira Learning (K-2)
 - IXL Language Arts (PK-12)
 - Boost Reading Texas (K-8, district-proposed)
 - iReady Reading (K-8, district-proposed)
- Licenses for a platform, tool, or other approved solution that supports observation feedback, instructional walkthroughs, and school-wide implementation data collection aligned to LIFT grant activities. The selected solution must be compatible with the Instructional Insights application, as determined by TEA. Additional guidance regarding compatibility will be provided in Spring 2027.

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
- 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 that are 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
- Stipends, salaries or partial salaries for administrators
- Expenses for in-state travel not directly related to grant activities
- Print materials (including trade books) for teachers and students

- Any activity not specified above in the Allowable Activities and Use of Funds section
- Technology hardware and equipment, including laptops, tablets, and calculators
- Furniture (chairs, desks, bookshelves)
- Bins, organizers, and storage systems used to organize and manage instructional materials
- 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 not 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*

Criteria	Definition	Prioritization
School systems with UA2+ campus not currently participating in LIFT or the HQIM grant.	School systems not engaging in LASO 4 LIFT nor HQIM Grant* that have a campus that received an Unacceptable Accountability designation for more than one year (UA2+) under the 2025-2026 state accountability system.	1st Priority Tier
School systems with F-rated CSI, ATS, or TSI campus not engaging in LIFT or HQIM grant.	School systems not engaging in LASO 4 LIFT nor HQIM Grant* that have an F-rated campus under the 2025-2026 state accountability system that is identified for federal school improvement (CSI, ATS, or TSI).	2nd Priority Tier
School systems with a CSI, ATS, or TSI campus not engaging in LIFT or HQIM	School systems not engaging in LASO 4 LIFT nor HQIM Grant* that have a campus that is identified for federal school improvement (CSI, ATS, or TSI).	3 rd Priority Tier

Within each tier, eligible applicants will be ranked from lowest to highest based on the applicable school system 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 applicants requesting multiple products, the lowest applicable rate of STAAR proficiency will be used for ranking purposes.

School systems with calendars of fewer than 165 days will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. If a school system's calendar has at least 165 days, or if the school system is moving to at least 165 days, it will be prioritized.

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

**"HQIM Grant" refers to the 2026-2027 Immediate HQIM and Instructional Systems Grant.*

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 Priority Tier 1 based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest, using the applicable STAAR performance measure associated with the requested product(s)
- After all eligible applicants in Priority Tier 1 have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the Priority Tier 2, based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest, based on the applicable STAAR performance measure associated with the requested product(s).
- After all eligible applicants in Priority Tier 2 have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to

applicants in Priority Tier 3 based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest, based on the applicable STAAR performance measure associated with the requested product(s).

School systems that otherwise qualify for a higher priority tier but do not commit to implementing a calendar with at least 165 instructional days and/or do not demonstrate a full K-12 feeder pattern will be placed in the lowest eligible priority tier for funding consideration.

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*.

There will be no oral interviews for this grant.