

Informal Discretionary Competitive (IDC Grant)

LASO 2026-2027 (Cycle 5)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

Preparing and Retaining Educators Program

(PREP) Allotment: Mentorship Program

Guidelines

Authorized by House Bill 2 Texas Education Code (TEC) §§21.907 and 48.157.

Allotment Application Due Date

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





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PREP Allotment: Mentorship Program Guidelines

Allotment Name: Preparing and Retaining Educators Program (PREP) Allotment: Mentorship Program

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

Program Authority: HB2 Texas Education Code (TEC) §§21.907, 48.157.

Introduction

PREP Program Allotment Overview

The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment supports school systems in building and strengthening teacher talent pipelines from recruitment to preparation to mentorship. Together, PREP programs help school systems recruit aspiring educators, prepare them for successful entry into the profession, and provide the mentorship and support needed to develop and retain effective teachers.

The PREP Program Allotment includes five programs that support different stages of the educator pipeline: Grow Your Own (GYO), Residency Preservice, Traditional Preservice, Alternative Preservice, and Mentorship. Through LASO 5, school systems may apply for PREP Program Allotment funding to implement one or more PREP programs, each designed around strategic partnerships that strengthen teacher pipelines. School systems may also apply for the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant to support implementation and increase the reach of the PREP Program Allotment.

These program guidelines focus specifically on the PREP Mentorship Program, which supports the mentorship stage of the teacher pipeline. Guidelines for other PREP programs are available on the LASO 5 website.

PREP Mentorship Program Overview

The PREP Mentorship Program aims to increase the effectiveness and retention of first- and second-year teachers across Texas. This program provides school systems with \$3,000 per beginning teacher participating in the program.

School systems must use funding to (1) provide, at minimum, a \$1,000 stipend to the mentor teacher, (2) train all required district mentorship staff via the Texas Mentorship Training, and (3) provide release time for mentor teacher and beginning teacher mentoring activities. Any remaining funds may be used on additional mentorship training and/or strategic staffing training.

School systems participating in the PREP Mentorship Program must comply with the requirements outlined in Texas Education Code (TEC) §§21.907 and 48.157 and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§153.1301, 153.1302, and 153.1305.

Overview of the LASO Application Process

The following steps provide a high-level overview of the process for responding to an allotment opportunity, including submitting an application, and being selected for funding:

1. TEA publishes the LASO application and supporting documents on the [LASO website](#). This also includes webinars that cover key aspects of PREP and the PREP Mentorship Program.
2. Superintendents will receive a unique application link in an email on September 23, 2026.

3. Eligible school system applicants submit the allotment application via Qualtrics by the specified deadline in this document.
4. Allotment applications are reviewed for eligibility.
5. TEA announces applicants preliminarily selected for funding on the [LASO website](#).
6. Following notification of preliminary approval, applicants and their Texas Mentorship Training partners will be required to submit the Partnership Agreement Form. TEA will send these out after LASO applications have been submitted.

Contact for Clarifying Information

The following TEA staff members should be contacted with questions:

Primary Program Contact: Arden McLean, Teacher Mentorship Specialist

Additional Program Contact: Ricki Harrell, Deputy Director of Teacher Mentorship

Program Email: mentorship@tea.texas.gov

Allotment Funding

All eligible school systems may receive allotment.

***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.*

Timeline

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
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 23, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #1 Registration links found on the LASO website .

October 27, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #2 Registration links found on the LASO website .
November 1, 2026	FAQ question submission deadline
November 18, 2026 at 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

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.

Allotment at a Glance

This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the Allotment program opportunity.

Authorizing Legislation

This allotment program is authorized by HB2 Texas Education Code §§21.907 and 48.157.

Where to Submit the Allotment 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 purpose of the PREP Program Allotment, as a whole, is to support school systems in strengthening teacher talent pipelines along the continuum of recruitment, preparation, and mentorship. The PREP Mentorship Program supports the mentorship component of that continuum by increasing the capacity of school systems to deliver high-quality mentorship to first- and second-year teachers.

For a more detailed description of the PREP Mentorship Program, see the Description of Program section later in these guidelines.

Eligible Applicants

School systems, which include districts and charter schools as defined below, are eligible to apply for the PREP Mentorship Program.

For the purposes of these program guidelines, a charter school is defined as a Texas public school that meets one of the following criteria:

- is operated by a charter holder under an open-enrollment charter granted either by the State Board of Education or commissioner of education pursuant to Texas Education Code (TEC) §12.101, identified with its own county district number;
- has a charter granted under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C*.
- has a charter granted under TEC §12.256, and Human Resources Code §221.002; or
- has a charter granted under TEC §11.157(b).

School systems must commit to communicating and partnering with an approved Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) Provider. The list of approved TMT Providers can be found on the [Texas Mentorship Training website](#).

Each eligible applicant is subject to PREP Program Allotment funding caps described in each of the program's guidelines.

*SB 1882 Operating Partners (OP) are eligible applicants and subject to the funding caps described in each of the PREP Program's guidelines in the following sections. However, PREP Allotment funding will flow to the partner school systems in which the participating 1882 campuses are located. The SB 1882 OP must have a written agreement with the partner school system to document how allotment funds generated through the partnership will be spent.

Any school system, which includes open-enrollment charter schools, and SB 1882 Operating Partners who read and agree to the requirements in relevant sections of the Texas Education and Texas Administrative codes cited in these guidelines is eligible for the PREP Allotment.

To be eligible for the PREP Program Allotment, applicants must read and agree to program-specific assurances in addition to relevant sections of the Texas Education Code (TEC) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC):

- TEC §21.458 (Mentors).
- TEC §21.907 (PREP Mentorship Program).
- TEC §48.157 (PREP Allotment).
- TAC §153.1301 (PREP Definitions).
- TAC §153.1302 (General Provisions for PREP).
- TAC §153.1305 (PREP Mentorship Program).

Additionally, school systems must follow the guidance in the PREP Guidebook, posted to the [PREP webpage](#).

Refer here for more information regarding [Texas Education Code](#).

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

Allotment Funding

All school systems that meet eligibility requirements shall receive \$3,000 per beginning teacher in their first or second year teaching with a cap of up to 40 beginning teachers.

Selection of Applicants for Funding

All eligible applicants that meet eligibility requirements and agree to these program assurances will be funded per the funding formula and parameters in TEC §48.157 (PREP Allotment) and TEC §21.907 (PREP Mentorship Program).

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

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

Allotment Application

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

- Statutory requirement assurances (requirements defined in the authorizing statute).

- TEA program requirements (requirements defined by TEA program staff).

TEA Program Requirements (Note: Application Required Responses)

Applicants must provide the following information in their application.

1. Prior to submitting this application, school systems must commit to communicating and partnering with an approved Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) Provider. The list of approved TMT Providers can be found on the [Texas Mentorship Training website](#). Please indicate the approved TMT Provider the school system has communicated with regarding training partnership for PREP Mentorship Program in school year (SY) 2027-28.
2. Will you complete the online Partnership Agreement Form with your Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) provider? TEA will send out these forms after the LASO application submission.
3. Estimated total number of **beginning teachers** for SY27-28. School systems must self-report the estimated number of beginning teachers for Year 1 implementation (SY27-28). School systems will enter the total estimated number of beginning teachers below; however, school systems will receive funding for a maximum of 40 beginning teachers.
4. How many total **mentor teachers**, for PREP Mentorship Program only, do you anticipate sending to Texas Mentorship Training? Note: Up to 40 beginning teachers in your school system may generate a PREP Mentorship Program Allotment. PREP Mentorship Program funds may be used for Texas Mentorship Training but the total allotment will be capped based on the number of beginning teachers (max 40). **Additional context for question 4:** Mentor Teachers who support beginning classroom teachers who have less than two years of teaching experience. Mentor teachers must have at least three years teaching experience, demonstrate instructional and leadership skills and, to the extent practicable, teach in the same school, subject, and/or grade level of the beginning teacher. Mentor teachers must also complete the Mentoring Educator pathway of Texas Mentorship Training within their first year as a PREP Mentorship mentor teacher. TEC [§21.458](#) (Mentors) & TEC [§21.907](#) (PREP Mentorship Program). For more information on the Texas Mentorship Training, please refer to pages 31-33 in the [PREP Guidebook](#) or visit the [Texas Mentorship Training website](#).
5. How many total **school system & campus leaders** do you anticipate sending to Texas Mentorship Training design sessions? Note: Review the PREP Mentorship Program Guidelines and the PREP Guidebook for more information on training attendance requirements. **Additional context for question 5:** Per statute TEC [§21.458](#), a school system must provide training to appropriate school system and campus employees who work with the classroom teacher or supervise the classroom teacher.

For the purposes of PREP Mentorship, school systems are required to identify, at minimum, one representative from each campus that has participating PREP Mentorship beginning teachers to participate in the Texas Mentorship Training School System & Campus Leader Design Sessions alongside the PREP Mentorship/TMT Program Manager. Design Team members should have decision-making authority over the mentorship program at their campus and be able to implement strategies from the design sessions on their home campus. For more information on Texas Mentorship Training School System and Campus Leader Design Sessions, please refer to pages 31-33 in the [PREP Guidebook](#) or visit the [Texas Mentorship Training website](#).

1. Contact information including name, email, phone, and title for the school system representative appointed as the PREP Mentorship Program Manager. This person will serve as the primary point of

contact for all PREP Mentorship program-related activities. Please see 'Initiative Assurances' for more information. For some school systems, the program manager for the PREP Mentorship Program may be the same person as the PREP Allotment Lead.

2. Contact information including name, email, phone, and title for the school system representative appointed as the secondary point of contact for all PREP Mentorship Program activities.

The following requirements are defined in the statute that authorizes this program.

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 Allotment funds administered by TEA (i.e., an Allotment recipient) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding Allotment 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, awardee represents and warrants that: 1. All conduct under this award shall be administered and performed in a neutral manner without regard to race of persons; 2. awardee shall not, in the specific performance of this award, elevate one individual person over another, or advantage any one person over another, due to race; 3. awardee shall not, in the specific performance of this award, employ practices or engage in any advancement of the programs known as DEI, critical race theory, affirmative action, or other similar, divisive agendas; 4. Awardee's staff, agents, contractors, and subcontractors that are selected and employed in the specific performance of this award shall be selected and employed solely on merit and the ability to perform; and 5. awardee shall ensure that any awardees, contractors and their subcontractors participating in the specific performance of this award represent and warrant to the provisions of this clause.
7. Biological Sex and No Preferred Pronouns: awardee represents and warrants that it shall ensure that all actions in specific performance of this award shall comply with federal and state law and reflect that there are only two sexes. Awardee's employees, officers, representatives, contractors, subcontractors, and agents shall not, in performance of this award, 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.

Assurances specific to the PREP Mentorship Program:

9. Read and abide by TEC [§21.901](#), [§21.907](#), [§21.909](#), [§48.157](#) (PREP Program Allotment);
10. Read and abide by TAC [§153.1301](#), [§153.1302](#), and [§153.1305](#) (PREP Definitions, General Provisions, and Mentorship Program).
11. Read and abide by the guidelines in the PREP Guidebook, posted to the [PREP website](#).
12. Ensure all required participants complete the Texas Mentorship Training as the agency-adopted mentorship trainings (see the Purpose section of these program guidelines for an overview of the Texas Mentorship Training).
13. Name an approved Texas Mentorship Training Provider on the LASO 5 application and provide Training Provider contact information.
14. Appoint a PREP Mentorship Program Manager (PM) to engage in all required PREP Mentorship Program communications. This PM manages the mentorship program at the school system level and may or may not be the same person as the PREP Allotment Lead. As a best practice for ensuring the program's success, the PM's duties should include:
 - a. Communicating with Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) Provider about needs and current support.
 - b. Attending all Mentoring Educator & School System and Campus Leader training.
 - c. Identifying dates for training.
 - d. Maintaining TMT Diagnostic Tool & Companion Document.
 - e. Communicating with campus manager and School System & Campus Leader design team about training information and registration.

Program Elements

Description of Program

The PREP Mentorship Program provides funding through which participating school systems implement a mentoring program that increases beginning teacher retention and effectiveness, ultimately leading to increased student outcomes through strong mentorship. As part of the PREP Mentorship Program, both mentor teachers and school system and campus leaders will engage in high-quality, research-based mentorship training via the Texas Mentorship Training (TMT).

Through participation in TMT, mentor teachers will build upon their leadership skills to expand their knowledge and expertise to support effective classroom practices and provide support to beginning teachers in their first and second years. Additionally, appropriate school system and campus leaders will also engage in mentorship program design and implementation sessions to help them develop or refine mentoring programs.

Through PREP Mentorship Program, school systems will engage in the Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) via an approved Texas Mentorship Training Provider. Visit the TMT [website](#) for information on approved TMT Providers. See tables below for an overview of the TMT.

Training Pathway	Intended Audience	Competencies	Estimated Time Commitments
Mentoring Educators	Mentoring Educators* who support beginning teachers, with less than two years of teaching experience	- Effective Mentoring Partnerships & Behaviors - Co-Teaching Strategies	Approximately 24 hours of

	such as mentor teachers and appropriate school system and campus employees who work with beginning teachers.	• The Learning Environment • Instructional Preparation and Data-Driven Instructional Practices	mentoring training
School System & Campus Leaders	School System & Campus Leaders who support the implementation of school system mentorship programs, such as mentorship program manager, school system leadership, principals, etc.	• Vision Setting & Performance Management • Master Schedule & Release Time • Recruitment, Selection & Assignment of Mentoring Educators • Program Sustainability and Scaling • Training & On-going Support of Mentoring Educators	Approximately 16 hours of program design training

**This could also include Intern Mentor Teachers, Cooperating Teachers, and Host Teachers under the PREP Preservice programs (Residency, Traditional, and Alternative). TMT is not a requirement of GYO.*

School systems who receive the allotment for PREP Mentorship Program will be awarded \$3,000 per beginning teacher (BT) in their first- or second-year teaching with a cap of up to 40 BTs. Of that \$3,000 per BT, school systems must provide a minimum stipend of \$1,000 to the mentor teachers per each BT that they mentor. School systems must also provide time during the regularly contracted school day to mentor teachers and their mentees in order to engage in mentoring activities such as co-teaching, observation and feedback, and lesson preparation, which must total at least 12 hours of mentoring activities per semester. The remaining funds must be used to provide 1) Texas Mentorship Training to mentor teachers and any appropriate school system and campus staff, and 2) release time for mentoring activities to occur during the regularly scheduled school day.

Any remaining funds may be used at the school system's discretion to provide additional mentor stipends, mentor training, release time for mentors and their assigned beginning teachers to meet for mentoring activities, or to support strategic staffing training.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to collect and report data requested by TEA as required in TEC §21.909 and TAC §§153.1302 and 153.1305. For additional information, see the PREP Guidebook posted to the [PREP website](#).

Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

- A school system must comply with the spending requirements in TEC §21.907 and TAC §§153.1302 and 153.1305.
- A school system shall use money received to provide stipends for mentor teachers in an amount of at least \$1,000.
- After providing a stipend to mentor teachers in accordance with TEC §21.907, Subsection (c), the school system may use that money to provide:
 - Texas Mentorship Training, as required by policy for all mentoring educators.
 - Scheduled release time for mentor teachers and classroom teachers being mentored to meet and engage in mentoring activities; and
 - Support for mentor teachers through mentor training and strategic staffing training.