

Informal Discretionary Competitive (IDC Grant)

LASO 2026-2027 (Cycle 5)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2026-2027 School Improvement Curriculum & Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG) 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



Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Introduction to the Program Guidelines.....	3
Requirement for Username and Password	3
Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines.....	4
Errata Notices	4
Overview of LASO Process	4
Email Bulletins	5
Contact for Clarifying Information.....	5
U.S. Department of Education and/or State Appropriations	5
LASO Timeline.....	5
Resources Available to Help Applicants Select the Most Appropriate Initiative(s).....	7
LASO at a Glance	7
Authorizing Legislation	7
Where to Submit the LASO Application	8
Purpose of Program	8
Eligible Applicants	8
Application Funding.....	8
Limitation of Administrative Funds	9
LASO Application Requirements and Assurances	10
Program Elements	12
Allowable Activities and Use of Funds	13
Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds	14
Expenditure Reporting (ER)	14
Federal Grant Requirements	14
Attachments	15
Required Program-Related Attachments	15
Required Fiscal-Related Attachments	15
LASO Scoring and Review	16
LASO Review and Funding Criteria.....	16
Priority Points.....	17

Oral Interviews for Funding	17
-----------------------------------	----

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.

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.

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

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

Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines

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

Errata Notices

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

Overview of LASO Process

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

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

5. Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit and certify an eGrant funding application including assurances and a budget summary to receive funding. Note: All data submitted in the needs assessment application is incorporated into the eGrants funding application under the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).
6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the IDC application.
7. Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

Email Bulletins

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

Contact for Clarifying Information

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

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Primary Program Contact: Laura Farber, Associate Commissioner of High-Quality Instructional Materials Implementation

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

Program Contact Info: <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	\$9,000,000
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	100%
Amount of federal funds	\$9,000,000
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 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 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #1 Registration links found on the LASO website
October 20, 2026, 3:00 p.m. CT	Program Specific Webinar #2 Registration links found on the LASO website
November 1, 2026	FAQ question submission deadline
November 6, 2026, 11:30 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 General and Fiscal Guidelines , 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

The School Improvement Curriculum & Instruction Grant (SI CISG) supports campuses in School Improvement that are focused on strengthening curriculum and instruction by implementing non-Bluebonnet, high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) in math or RLA. This grant provides targeted funding and implementation support for campuses that are either (1) adopting a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved HQIM in eligible grade levels, or (2) seeking to improve curriculum and instruction in grade levels where an SBOE-approved HQIM list does not exist. The grant is designed to ensure that students have access to rigorous, TEKS-aligned materials and that campuses receive the necessary support to implement these resources with fidelity, promote strong instructional leadership, and accelerate student learning.

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible applicants are campuses that are Title I served with a 2025 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.

To qualify, campuses must be implementing instructional materials in one of the following ways:

- Using a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved high-quality instructional material (HQIM) other than those in the Bluebonnet Learning suite in eligible grade levels where such materials exist, or.
- Focusing on curriculum and instruction improvements in grades K-12 where an SBOE-approved HQIM list is not available. Campuses are not required to be recipients of the LIFT grant to apply for this opportunity.

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 30–45 applicants will be awarded. Each participating campus will be awarded \$200,000.

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

***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.

supplement, not supplant 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 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

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. 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.
2. 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.
3. Align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under subsection (b)(1).
4. 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:

1. Agree to meet all program-specific assurances outlined in the grant guidelines.
2. Select the specific eligible campuses that will implement each instructional material. Eligible campuses must be Title I served and carry a 2025 federal accountability identification.
3. Confirm that all participating campuses will remain in operation and maintain Title I served status for the 2026–2027 school year.
4. Confirm that campuses receiving this grant will use a rigorous review process to recruit, screen, select, and evaluate any external Approved Providers with whom the school system will partner.

Statutory or Program-Specific Assurances

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

1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this IDC will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
2. The applicant assures that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
3. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the SI CISG Program Guidelines.
4. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the SI CISG 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. 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 ensures the school system will meet all program-specific assurances, including:
 - a. Securing approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
 - b. Implement a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved High Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) in 27-28 that is not part of the Bluebonnet Learning suite, in alignment with TEA guidance and the goals of the grant program, OR implement curriculum and instruction improvements in grades 6–12 English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) and grades 9–12 Mathematics (excluding Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry).
 - 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 SI CISG program and have demonstrated the capacity to effectively deliver the required grant-related technical assistance and support.
 - d. Submitting provider contracts and required funding summary reports to TEA.
 - e. Appointing a designated lead as the primary point of contact and identifying at least two additional contacts.
 - f. Participating in required TEA-led activities.
 - g. Submitting all required grant artifacts, including the submission of a Targeted Improvement Plan.
 - h. 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.

Program Elements

Description of Program

This grant supports campuses in School Improvement that are strengthening curriculum and instruction through the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). Campuses may qualify under one of two pathways:

- Campuses implementing curriculum and instruction improvements in grades 6–12 English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) and grades 9–12 Mathematics (excluding Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry), or;
- Campuses adopting a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved HQIM in eligible grade levels where such materials exist, excluding those in the Bluebonnet Learning suite.

The grant provides direct funding to school systems to support the selection, purchase, and implementation of

rigorous, TEKS-aligned instructional materials that promote high-quality instruction and improved academic outcomes. School systems are expected to:

- Select and purchase HQIM for use in eligible campuses during the 2027–2028 school year, either in the specified ELAR and Math grade bands or from the SBOE-approved list where applicable.
- Implement the selected instructional materials with fidelity, ensuring alignment to TEKS and instructional best practices.
- Maintain documentation of materials selection and procurement for TEA review upon request.

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 SI CISG program and have demonstrated the capacity to effectively deliver the required grant-related technical assistance and support.

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 submission using TEA-provided forms.
- Surveys of teachers, coaches, school leaders/campus administrators, and school system leads prior to and during the school year administered by TEA.
- Submission of classroom observation and assessment data.

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

Include from the following list any applicable activities and any other general uses of funds allowed for the grant program. If programmatic allowable activities are more specific, as appropriate use that language instead. If limitations apply, include them (e.g., specific payroll positions, required contracts, etc.). If an activity is NOT allowable for this Grant program, add to the Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds list, and check the box and we will delete the activity

- Payroll costs to include stipends, partial salaries, and salaries of positions supporting the implementation of the instructional materials.
- Professional and contracted services.
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials.
- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include:
 - Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514).
 - Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Interest Costs (6526).

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 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.
- Any activity not specified above in the Allowable Activities and Use of Funds section.
- 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.

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).

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.

Tiebreakers will be determined by the highest economic disadvantaged rate.

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 less than 165 instructional days will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. If your calendar has >165 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. 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.