

Informal Discretionary Competition (Grant)



LASO Cycle 4 (2025-2026)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2026-2028 AP CSP Grant

Program Guidelines

REVISED 6/11/26

Authorized by General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, 89th Texas Legislature, Strategy A.2.4, Rider 59, Grants for Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Course



Grant Application Due Date
December 3, 2025; 5:00 p.m. CST

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Grant Program Guidelines

Grant Name	2026-2028 AP CSP Grant
Application Due Date	December 3, 2025; 5:00 p.m. CT
Program Authority	General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, 89th Texas Legislature, Strategy A.2.4, Rider 59, Grants for Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Courses

Introduction

TEA, as the pass-through entity¹, is the grantee² from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). TEA awards subgrants to non-federal entities³ such as local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, charter schools, and education service centers, and to a lesser degree, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and nonprofit organizations (NPOs) who are the agency's subgrantees⁴. These guidelines apply to all subgrantees of TEA, regardless of whether referenced herein as subgrantee or grantee. For purposes of this document, TEA may use the terms grantee and subgrantee synonymously for its subrecipients.

This part of the request for application (RFA), Program Guidelines, is to be used in conjunction with the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) and any application instructions.

For applicants selected for funding, all guidelines and instructions will be incorporated by reference into the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

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 you review all referenced sections of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) when preparing your application.

Errata Notices

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

¹ Pass-through entity is defined as a non-Federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal program. (2 CFR 200.74)

² 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. (34 CFR 77)

³ Non-federal entity is defined as a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient. (2 CFR 200.69)

⁴ Subgrantee is defined by TEA to be the same as a subrecipient which is defined as a non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. (2 CFR 200.93) Subgrantee is defined in 34 CFR 77 as the legal entity to which a subgrant is awarded and that is accountable to the grantee for the use of the funds provided.

Overview of the IDC Process

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

1. TEA publishes the IDC application and supporting documents on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#).
2. Eligible applicants submit the grant application via Qualtrics by the specified deadline in this document.
3. Grant 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 eGrants funding application including assurances and a budget summary to receive funding. Note: All data submitted in the grant 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.

Contact for Clarifying Information

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

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Grant Program Contact

Program manager name	Kay Humes
Program manager title	Statewide Coordinator for Advanced Academics
Program manager email	Kay.Humes@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	512-463-8823

Additional Program Contact

Program manager name	Krystal Garza
Program manager title	Director of Postsecondary Preparation Programs
Program manager email	Krystal.garza@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	512-463-9371

Funding Contact

Program manager name	Competitive Grants Unit
Program manager title	Grants Administration Division
Program manager email	Competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	(512) 463-8525

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	\$1,292,550.00
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	0%
Amount of federal funds	\$0.00
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources	100%
Amount of nonfederal funds	\$1,292,550.00

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

Timeline

For all dates related to the grant, 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 16, 17, 2025	General Webinar schedule Tuesday, September 16, 2025 (9:30-10:30 am CT)- Option 1 Wednesday, September 17, 2025 (3:00-4:00 pm CT)- Option 2
October 3, 2025	Grant application available
October 8, 21, 2025	APCSP Program Webinar schedule Wednesday, Oct 8, 2025 (11:00-12:00 pm CT)- Option 1 Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025 (2:00-3:00 pm CT) - Option 2
October 26, 2025	FAQ deadline
November 3, 2025	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
December 3, 2025	Due date for the IDC Qualtrics application. The IDC application must be received by the TEA by 5:00 p.m., Central Time. LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 3, 2025. Please see the LASO website for more information. See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Application Due Date and Time
December 4, 2025- January 30, 2026	Application review period, including interviews if necessary See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Review Process
February 2, 2026	Anticipated award announcement
February 9, 2026	eGrants ADC and Application opens for awarded applicants
April 2, 2026	Due Date for eGrants Application
March 1, 2026	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period
March 02, 2027	Amendment due date (if selected for funding)
April 30, 2028	End date of grant (if selected for funding)

Grant at a Glance

This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the grant program.

Authorizing Legislation

This grant is authorized by the General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 59, 89th Texas Legislature

Where to Submit the Grant Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 3, 2025. Please see the [LASO website](#) for more information.

Purpose of Program

Currently, computer science careers are in high demand with high wage-earning potential. Allowing high school students to explore a computer science career will benefit them, their families, and communities, as well as positively impact the future economy of Texas. The purpose of this grant is to provide students with an opportunity to experience computer science careers during high school by granting public school districts the funds to develop or expand a computer science pathway beginning with the implementation of the AP Computer Science Principles course.

Eligible Applicants

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

The eligible applicants are Texas:

- Independent School Districts (ISDs)
- Charter Schools

Education Service Centers (ESCs) are not eligible to apply

Eligibility List

There is no eligibility list for this grant. All Texas public schools are eligible to apply.

Shared Services Arrangement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Shared Services Arrangements.

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed.

Application Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines: Continuation Funding, Fund Management, and Use of Funds](#).

It is anticipated that \$1,292,550 will be awarded to up to 50 applicants with awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 based on a district's response to application questions.

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

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 the supplant provision, does not apply to this grant program.

Limitation of Administrative Funds

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

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

TEA limits the amount of funds that may be budgeted to administer the program, including direct administrative costs and indirect costs, to no more than 15% of the total Grant awarded.

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.

For this state-funded Grant, the Grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to the lesser of its current, approved unrestricted indirect cost rate or 15%.

Pre-Award Costs

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Pre-Award Costs.

Pre-award costs are not permitted for this grant.

Grant Application

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.

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. TEC 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC) requires 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.

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 the following:

- How will the school system plan to use the funds provided with this grant?
- Does the school system currently offer an APCSP course on one or more campuses?
- How many of the school system's campuses will offer the APCSP course?
- How many teachers will be trained during the summer of 2026 to teach one or more sections of the APCSP course in fall 2026?

Statutory and Program-Specific Assurances

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

1. The applicant assures the application does not contain any information protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
2. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the Program Guidelines.
3. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.

4. The applicant assures that any Electronic Information Resources (EIR) produced as part of this agreement will comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements as specified in 1 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.
5. The applicant acknowledges that Per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives Grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a Grantee or subGrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding Grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fingerprinting Requirement.
6. Equal Treatment of All Persons: Consistent with Article I, Section 3a of the Texas Constitution, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, federal and State law, and Executive Order No. GA-55, Subrecipient represents and warrants that: 1. All conduct under this Subaward shall be administered and performed in a neutral manner without regard to race of persons; 2. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, elevate one individual person over another, or advantage any one person over another, due to race; 3. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, employ practices or engage in any advancement of the programs known as DEI, critical race theory, affirmative action, or other similar, divisive agendas; 4. Subrecipient's staff, agents, subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors that are selected and employed in the specific performance of this Subaward shall be selected and employed solely on merit and the ability to perform; and 5. The subrecipient shall ensure that any subgrantees, contractors and their subcontractors participating in the specific performance of this Subaward represent and warrant to the provisions of this clause.
7. Biological Sex and No Preferred Pronouns: Subrecipient represents and warrants that it shall ensure that all actions in specific performance of this Subaward shall comply with federal and state law and reflect that there are only two sexes. Subrecipient's employees, officers, representatives, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, and agents shall not, in performance of this Subaward, present, direct, request, or suggest the use of preferred personal pronouns in professional correspondence or presentations.
8. The school system will maintain current contact information in AskTED to ensure timely communication.
9. The school system will regularly submit its expenditures (monthly preferred, quarterly at minimum) to remain on track for grant expenditures.
10. The school system will contract with an Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 4 Approved Provider List for curriculum and training.
11. The school system will collect data and report on the following mandatory performance and evaluation measures:
 - a. The number of students enrolled in the APCSP course each semester, including data to identify typically underrepresented student populations, including the % in demographic groups (race/ethnicity), English Learners, students who are economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities,
 - b. The # and % of CTE completers taking an APCSP course,
 - c. The # and % of students enrolled in the APCSP that earned course credit,
 - d. The # and % of APCSP-enrolled students who took the APCSP exam, and,
 - e. The # and % of exams with a score of 3 or higher.

12. The school system will use grant funds only for APCSP classroom supplies and technology, teacher training, and directly related expenses for implementing an APCSP course.
13. The school system will administer the APCSP exam to district-enrolled students participating in the APCSP course, at no cost to the student.

The program-specific assurances for this Grant program are listed in [the Grant application](#).

Program Elements

Description of Program

According to the College Board, students who took an AP CSP course were twice as likely to continue along the computer science pathway. In fact, students who took an AP CSP course in high school were three times more likely to major in computer science in college, holding true across various demographics. However, in the 2019-2020 school year, 16% of Texas public schools offered AP CSP, and only 6% of rural schools offered AP CSP. While all ISDs are eligible to apply for this grant, priority points for ranking will be given to schools with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students, small and rural schools.

This program provides an opportunity, including financial and operational support for school districts, to develop a CTE computer science pathway that will provide students access to instruction toward high-demand, high-wage earning opportunities.

Qualifications and Experience

The applicant agrees to provide data on the qualifications and experience of the existing or future staff members, as required per the program guidelines as follows:

1. AP CSP teachers must be Texas certified classroom teachers either in computer science or in any discipline with a computer science endorsement recorded on their teaching certificate.
2. AP CSP teachers must become a College Board approved instructor by completing the AP Audit.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

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

1. The number of students enrolled in the APCSP course each semester including data to identify typically underrepresented student populations including the % in demographic groups (race/ethnicity), English Learners, students who are economically disadvantaged, and students with disabilities,
2. The # and % of CTE completers taking an APCSP course,
3. The # and % of students enrolled in the APCSP that earned course credit,
4. The # and % of APCSP-enrolled students who took the APCSP exam, and,
5. The # and % of exams with a score of 3 or higher.

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.

Allowable activities and use of funds for this Grant include only the following:

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

- Administrative and indirect costs (limited to 15% of grant award)
- Teacher supplemental salary costs above base salary that supports the program outcomes (including substitute and extra duty pay)
- Professional and contracted services that supports program outcomes (including approved state approved vendor contracts)
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials for classroom equipment to support the APCSP course
- Capital outlay for classroom equipment to support the APCSP course
- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include SBITA, but there are other non-allowable debt service options (see unallowable)
 - a. Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514)
 - b. Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Interest Costs (6526)

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

Out-of-State Travel

Out-of-state travel costs are allowable.

Out-of-state travel costs should be minimal. Travel costs are allowable as long as the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items are only incurred by employees on official business of the Grantee and follow the Grantee's regular business operations and written travel policy.

Out-of-state travel will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Justification for Out-of-State Travel form, refer to the [Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification](#) page.

Travel costs should be minimal and must follow the Grantee's written travel policy for teacher professional learning. Travel costs should only be for the following types of professional learning opportunity

- APSI (Advanced Placement Summer Institute) for AP Computer Science Principles (APC CSP)
- Professional learning opportunity by a grant endorsed vendor

Field Trips

Field trips may be funded under the Grant program.

Only the following types of field trips may be allowable:

- Local businesses and industry locations
- Colleges and Universities

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.

- Travel for students to conferences
- Stipends for non-employees
- Non-employee costs for conferences
- Travel costs for officials such as the executive director, superintendent, or board members
- Cost of membership in any civic or community organization
- Hosting or sponsoring of conferences
- Advisory council related expenses
- Base teacher salary and benefits
- Any costs that do not support the AP CSP course

In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this Grant include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — unallowable costs include:
 - a. Capital Lease Liability — Principal Costs (6512)
 - b. Capital Lease Liability – Interest Costs (6522)
- Interest on Debt Costs - (6523) Audit services for state-funded Grants

Attachments

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

Required Program-Related Attachments

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Required Program-Related Attachments, for a general description of program-related documents that can be required as attachments to the application.

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

Required Fiscal-Related Attachments

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

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

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 5013C_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*

Standard GRANT Review Criteria	Description	Maximum Points Available
AP Program	AP Program	10
APCSP Course	School system does not currently offer an APCSP course.	10
APCSP grant engagement	School system currently receives APCSP Grant funds.	10
APCSP expansion	School system is adding APCSP sections or new campus(es)	10
APCSP teachers	School system will increase number of teachers to be APCSP trained	10
Total Standard Review Points Possible		50

Priority Points

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

- School systems in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state (10 points)
- School systems who are identified as a BOM district* (10 points)
- School systems that are classified by TEA district type as rural (10 points)

According to the TEA definition, a rural district has either

a. An enrollment of between 300 and the median district enrollment for the state and an enrollment growth rate over the past five years of less than 20 percent; or

b. An enrollment of less than 300 students. A list of schools by district type can be found at: <https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/school-data/campus-and-district-type-data-search>

Total maximum number of priority points available 30 points

In the event of a tie, school systems will be prioritized by the highest level of AP course participation and Economically Disadvantaged percentage.

*All districts with a state appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings

Oral Interviews for Funding

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

Oral interviews do not apply to this grant