



PREP Overview

October 7 and October 16, 2026

Introductions



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PREP Help Desk



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PREP Help Desk

Agenda

Overview of LASO Cycle 5
Application Process and Timeline

PREP Allotment Deep Dive

Next Steps

FYIs



Submit questions during the webinar using the Zoom Q&A



Webinar slides and recordings will be posted on the [LASO website](#) after all webinars have been completed



Email LASO@tea.texas.gov with follow-up questions

LASO Overview 26-27 (Cycle 5)

LASO 26-27 (Cycle 5)



Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) is a **single, consolidated application that combines grants, in-kind supports and services, and allotment opportunities**, bundled around a few key initiatives to accelerate academic gains.

~\$400M

In supports and services

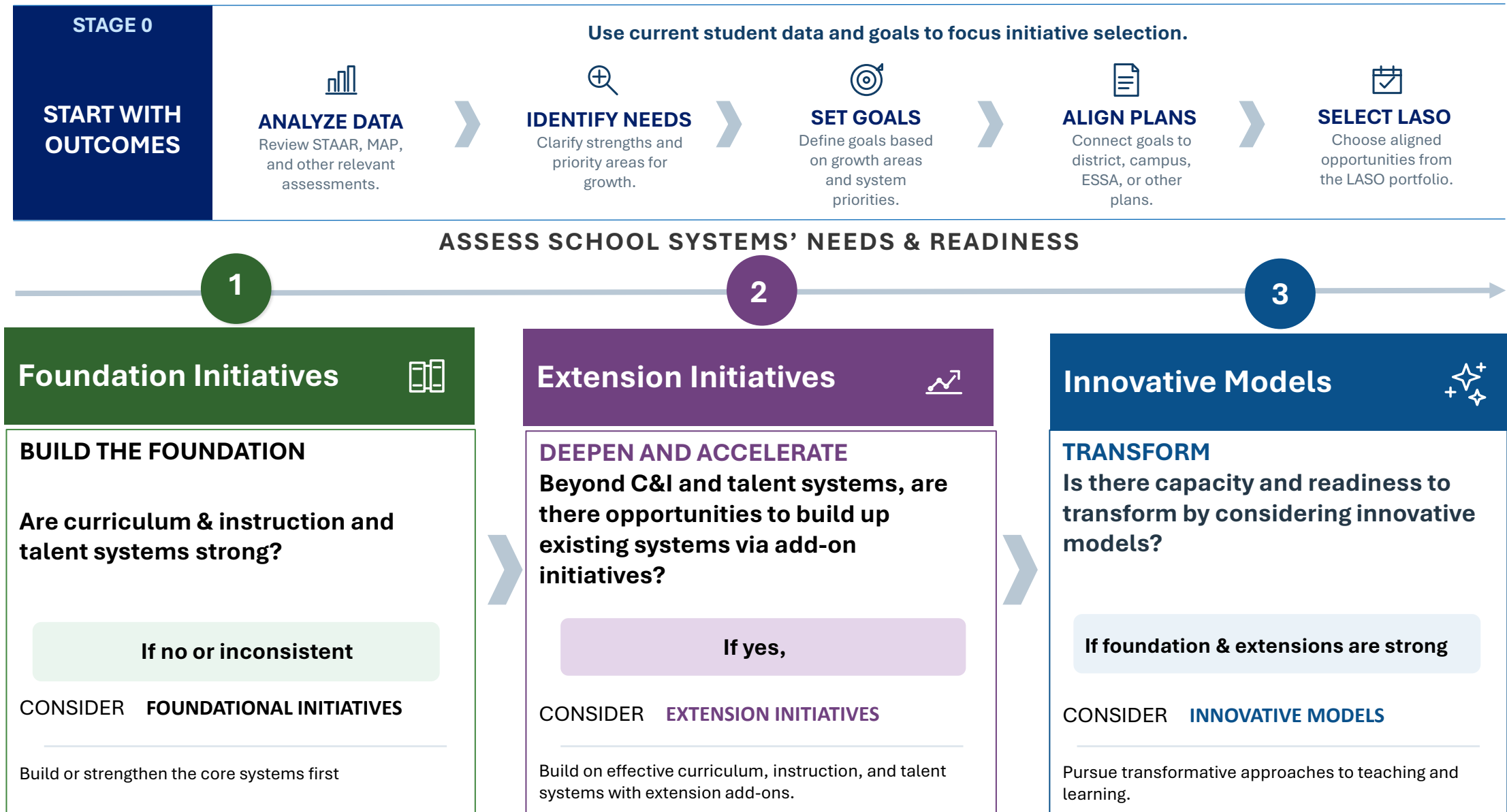
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TEA initiatives to support school
systems in achieving student
outcomes

1

Application to access direct
grants, in-kind supports,
and state allotments

Schema to Determine Best- Fit Initiatives



Select the Best-Fit Initiatives Based on Needs and Readiness

Initiative
Local Accountability System Planning Grant (LAS)
Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)
LIFT School Improvement Accelerator (LIFT SI A)
School Improvement C&I Support Grant (SICISG)
Blended Learning Grant (BLG) 2 Pathways: Coherent Systems, Strategic Operations
AP Computer Science Principles (APCSP)
Early Literacy Intervention Tool (ELIT)
Math Supplemental Curriculum for School Improvement (MSC for SI)
PREP Programs: •PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) •PREP Residency •PREP Traditional •PREP Alternative •PREP Mentorship
Texas Strategic Staffing (TSS)
Strategic Compensation Cohort for Enhanced TIA (SCC for ETIA)
Additional Days School Year (ADSY) PEP Grant 2 pathways: Summer Learning, Full Year Redesign
School Action Fund (SAF)
Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP)
Early College High School (ECHS)
Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)
Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) 2 Pathways: Program, Campus

FOUNDATION

Curriculum & Instruction + Talent

Leadership & Instructional
Foundations for Texas (LIFT)

PREP Programs: GYO,
Residency, Traditional,
Alternative, Mentorship

Texas Strategic Staffing (TSS)

Strategic Compensation Cohort
for Enhanced TIA (SCC for ETIA)

EXTENSION

Build, deepen, and accelerate

LIFT School Improvement
Accelerator (LIFT SI A)

School Improvement C&I
Support Grant (SI CISG)

Blended Learning Grant (BLG):
Coherent Systems + Strategic
Operations

AP Computer Science
Principles (AP CSP)

Early Literacy Intervention Tool
(ELIT)

Math Supplemental
Curriculum for School
Improvement (MSC for SI)

Additional Days School Year
PEP Grant (ADSY): Summer
Learning + Full Year Redesign

INNOVATIVE MODELS

Transform the learning model

Local Accountability System
Planning Grant (LAS)

School Action Fund (SAF)

Rural Pathway Excellence
Partnership (R-PEP)

Early College High School
(ECHS)

Pathways in Technology Early
College High School (P-TECH)

Virtual and Hybrid Program
Accelerator (VHPA): Program
+ Campus

Get Ready to Apply for LASO 5

APPLICATION OPENED

September 23, 2026

APPLICATION CLOSES

December 1, 2026 · 5 p.m. CT

- 1 Explore the offerings** Visit the [LASO 5 website](#) to review available initiatives.

Review Resources

Learn more about each grant and their coexistence:

2

[Best Fit
Guidance](#)

[Initiative
One-Pagers](#)

[Eligibility &
Prioritization](#)

[Master
Calendar](#)

- 3 Align with your teams** Share information with school system teams to identify needs and best-fit initiatives.

Multi Year Funding Deep Dive for PREP



Total Allotment Range: Varies based on number of allotments received

1

Year 1* • LASO 26-27

Apply for LASO 26-27 (Cycle 5)

Application opens September 23, 2026

Annual allotment ranges

PREP Grow Your Own: \$8K-\$480K

PREP Residency: \$24K-\$1.6M

PREP Traditional: \$10K-\$1.75M

PREP Alternative: \$10K-\$1.75M

PREP Mentorship: \$3K-\$120K

- ✓ **Once approved, TEA calculates the allotment using the statutorily-based funding formula.**
- ✓ **The amount a school system generates may vary year-to-year based on the number of school system employees generating the allotment.**

**Once approved for one of the five PREP programs, a school system will not need to re-apply annually and participation is subject to the annual and three-year reviews specified Texas Administrative Code, section 153.1302.*

Contact Information: prep@tea.texas.gov

Webpage link: [LASO 5 Website](#) and [PREP Webpage](#)

LASO Grants

School systems are selected for funding **based on a set of priority points or tiers.**

VS

LASO PREP Program Allotment

All school systems are **selected** for funding that **meet eligibility criteria** and **commit to statutorily-based requirements.**

PREP Application & Reviews



- The PREP Program Allotment is a **non-competitive entitlement**. In other words, all applicants that meet eligibility criteria and commit to the program requirements will be funded.
- A school system **does not need to reapply through LASO Cycle 5** for a PREP GYO, Residency, or Mentorship program if it was previously approved for that program through LASO Cycle 4 and meets all the following conditions:
 - Received from TEA an award announcement via the LASO Cycle 4 process
 - Submitted to TEA a PREP Verification of Participation form in summer 2026
 - Submitted to TEA a written agreement for GYO or Residency (not applicable for Mentorship)
- **LASO Cycle 4 PREP participants:** Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnerships Program (PREP) Allotment | Texas Education Agency

PREP Allotment Deep Dive

Note: The PREP Program Allotment includes five programs in the LASO Cycle 5 process: Grow Your Own, Residency Preservice, Traditional Preservice, Alternative Preservice, and Mentorship. Within the LASO Cycle 5 application, each program will have a distinct application and a corresponding individual webinar. This webinar serves as an overview of the overall allotment.

Classroom Practice

- A research synthesis from Dunst et al (2019) relates preservice experience, including extended preservice experience, with positive teaching practices.
- Ronfeldt (2021) links preservice practice with teacher retention and feeling prepared for the classroom.

Content Knowledge

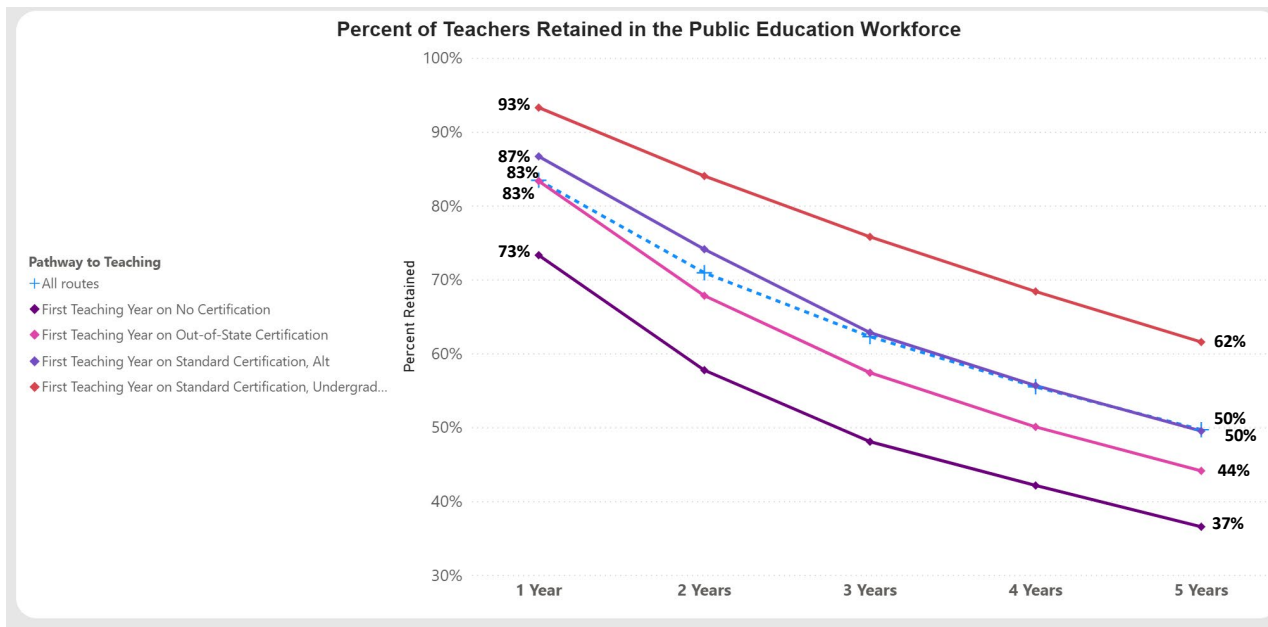
- Hill, Rowan, and Ball (2005) indicate that content knowledge for teaching is the strongest predictor of student achievement.

Mentoring & Coaching (during their first and/or second year)

- A meta-analysis from Kraft, Blazar, and Hogan (2018) shows relationships between quality coaching and student achievement
- Goldhaber, Krieg, Naito, and Theobald (2020) link quality mentoring during preparation and teacher efficacy.

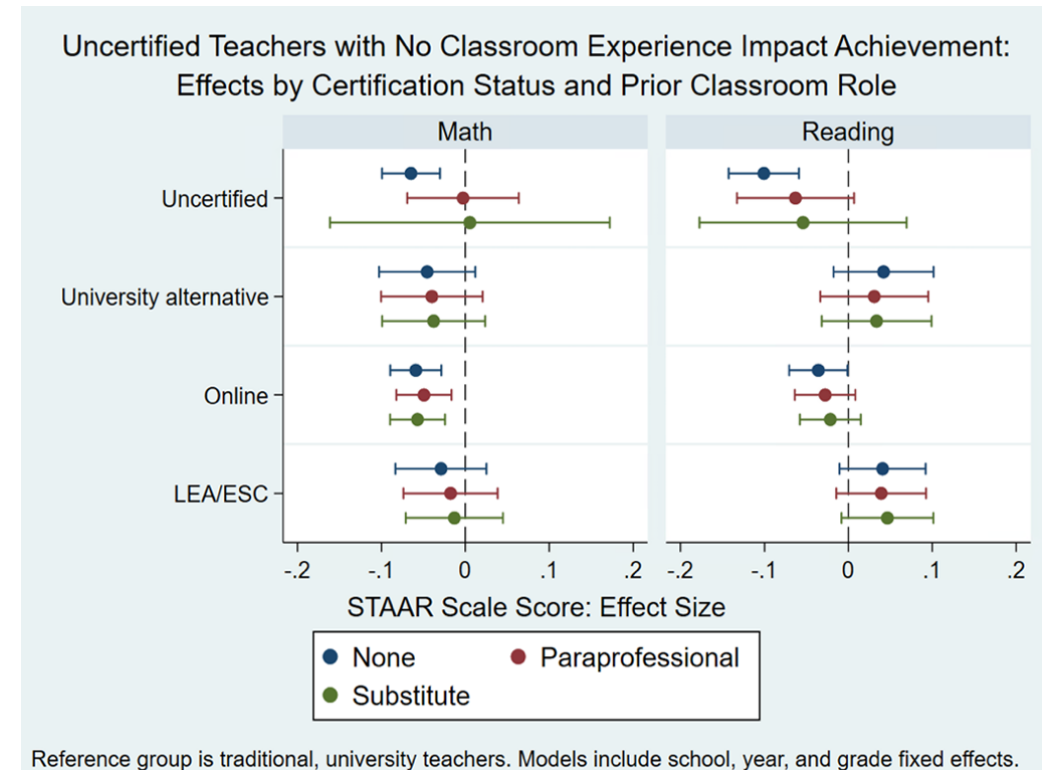
Teacher Preparation Outcomes

TEA data shows higher quality preparation routes improve **teacher retention** rates



Source: [Teacher Retention by Pathway to First Year of Teaching 2021-2022 – 2025-2026\(TEA\)](#)

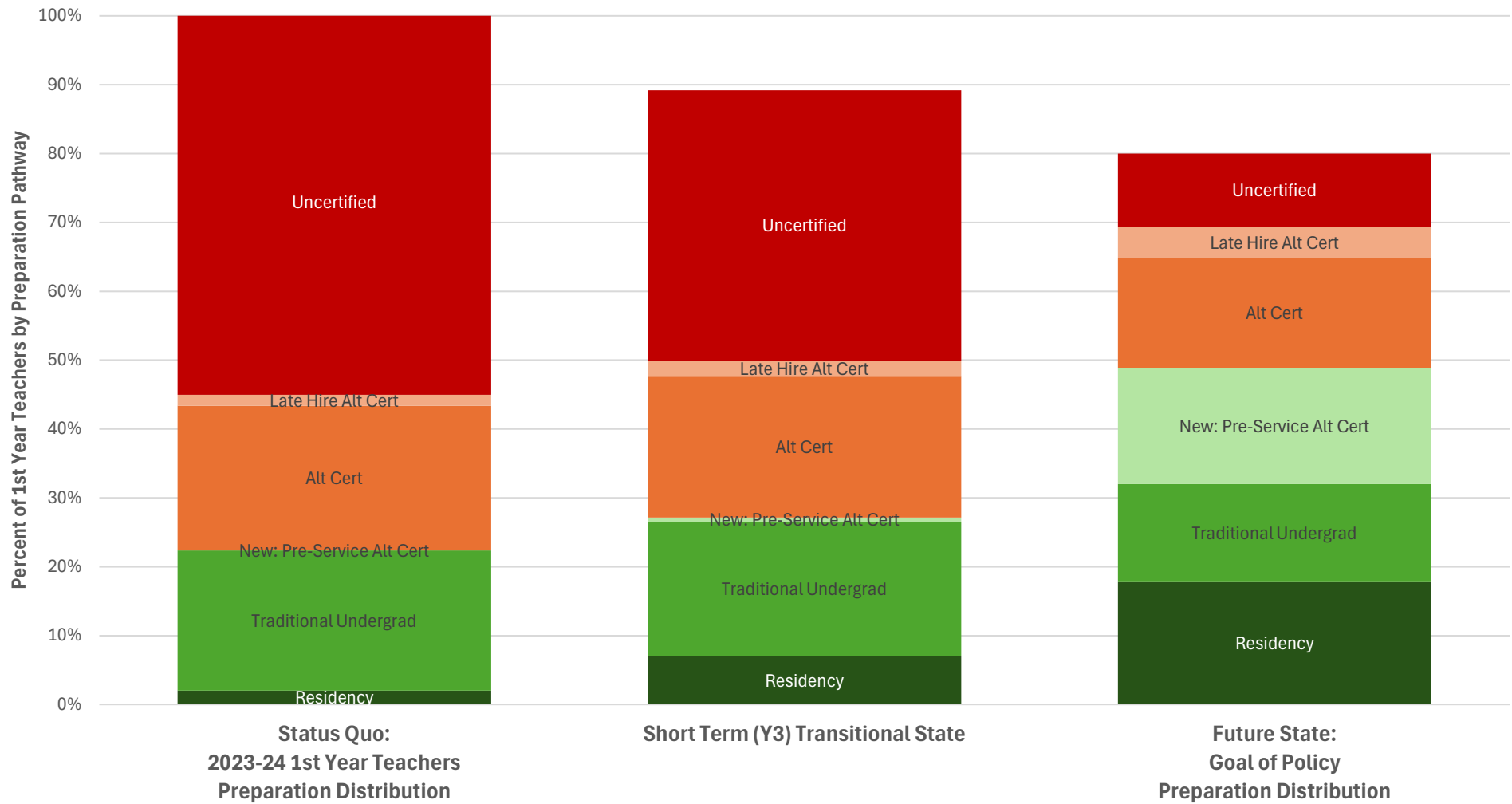
Research from Texas Tech shows that higher quality preparation routes improve **student outcomes**



Reference group is traditional, university teachers. Models include school, year, and grade fixed effects.

Source: [Amid Rising Number of Uncertified Teachers, Previous Classroom Experience Proves Vital in Texas](#) (TTU)

A Future New Hire Workforce



With improved preparation over time, early career turnover should decline, so fewer 1st year teachers will be needed each year

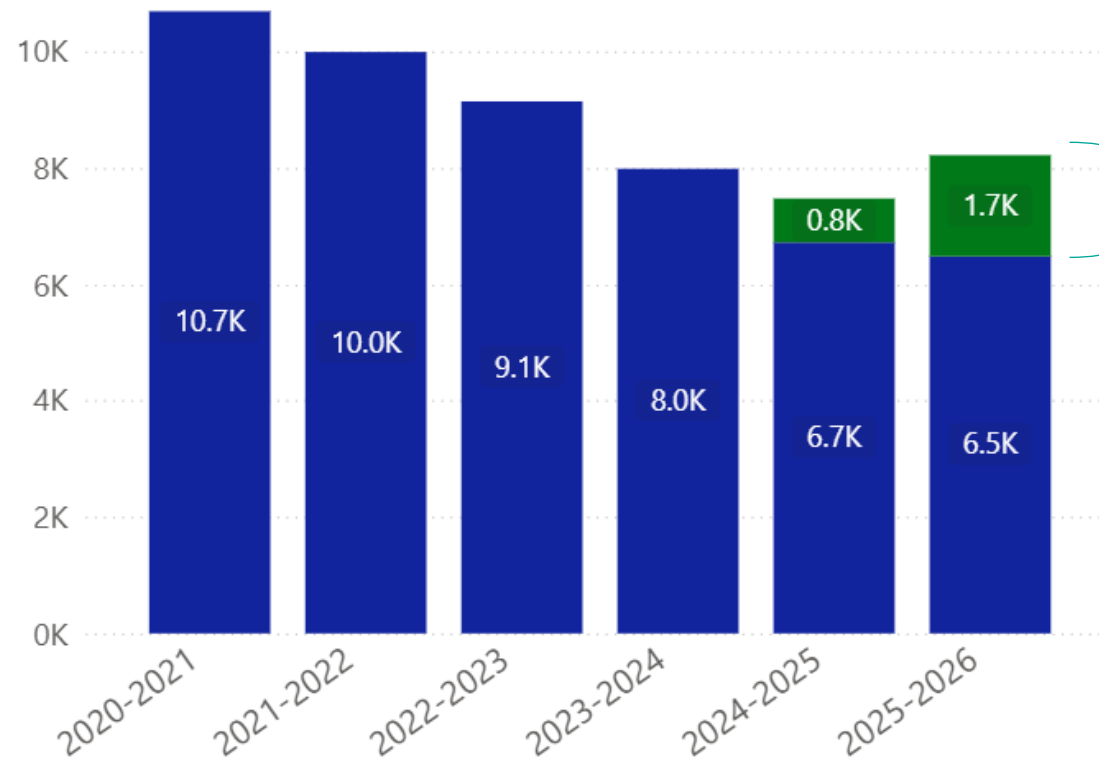
State funding will now be provided for high-quality preparation so far more teacher candidates will be trained before they begin teaching

~30,000 1st year teachers were hired in Texas in 2023-24

Recent Uptick in TX EPPs

Admitted Teacher Candidates, Year to Date, by Route

Certification Route ● Traditional ● Residency



TX is seeing a recent uptick in educator preparation program enrollment and increased enrollment in teacher residencies.

PREP Overview

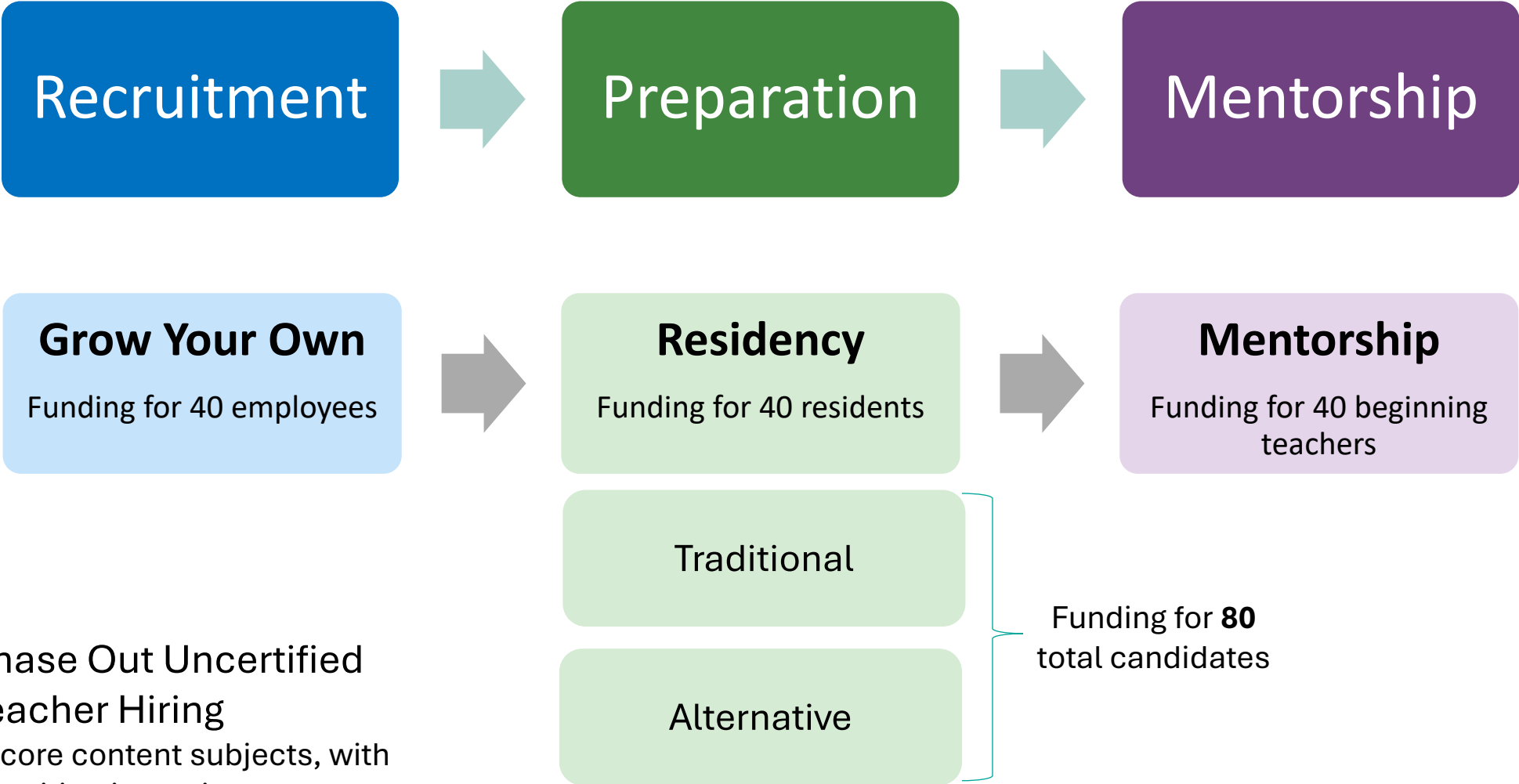
The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment aims to strengthen the quality of teacher **recruitment, preparation, and mentorship** leading to increased educator effectiveness and retention.

The PREP Program Allotment provides funding for various partnerships, and school systems may apply for funding for the following programs through LASO Cycle 5.

- PREP **Grow Your Own** Program
- PREP **Residency** Preservice Program
- PREP **Traditional** Preservice Program
- PREP **Alternative** Preservice Program
- PREP **Mentorship** Program

Through LASO 5, school systems may also apply for **Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant** to support implementation and reach of the PREP Program Allotment.

PREP Program Allotment Overview



 Phase Out Uncertified Teacher Hiring in core content subjects, with transition incentives

PREP Allotment Funding Overview



PREP PRESERVICE PROGRAMS

Grow Your Own

\$8K–\$12K

per employee

INITIAL PAYMENT

50% of allotment

SUCCESS-BASED

Remaining 50% when the employee earns a bachelor's degree and enrolls in an EPP

ANNUAL CAP

Up to 40 employees

Residency Preservice

\$24K–\$39.5K

per resident

INITIAL PAYMENT

\$12,000

SUCCESS-BASED

Remainder when the resident earns the enhanced standard certificate

ANNUAL CAP

Up to 40 residents

Traditional Preservice

\$10K–\$21.5K

per teacher candidate

INITIAL PAYMENT

\$4,000

SUCCESS-BASED

Remainder when the candidate completes the program

ANNUAL CAP

Up to 80, combined with Alternative

Alternative Preservice

\$10K–\$21.5K

per teacher candidate

INITIAL PAYMENT

\$4,000

SUCCESS-BASED

Remainder at program completion and intern with preservice experience certificate

ANNUAL CAP

See Traditional

Mentorship

\$3,000

per beginning teacher

INITIAL PAYMENT

Full \$3,000, paid annually

SUCCESS-BASED

No success-based component

ANNUAL CAP

Up to 40 beginning teachers

FSP formula funding, not a grant. Funds flow through the Foundation School Program based on ECOS data entry

No program intent code (PIC). School systems track spending with locally defined option codes, similar to TIA.

Fall payments. October 2027 for participants entered in ECOS by the August deadline. Later entries flow through September settle-up.

Auto-renewing. Once approved, school systems generate annual allotments, amount confirmed through ECOS data entry each August.

Recruitment

PREP GYO Program



Per PREP GYO rule, participating school systems must have a **written partnership agreement** with **at least one** IHE for PREP GYO program implementation by the 2027-2028 school year. **School systems must submit a written partnership agreement for each IHE*.**

The agreement must be with:

- a Texas bachelor's degree conferring public IHE or
- a bachelor's degree conferring private IHE authorized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to operate in Texas, and
- an accredited Texas EPP (if not included within the IHE)

** If an accredited Texas EPP partner differs from the approved IHE partner(s), the school system must locally maintain a partnership agreement.*

Preparation

PREP Preservice
Residency
Program

PREP Preservice
Traditional
Program

PREP Preservice
Alternative
Program



The State Board of Educator Certification (**SBEC**) must **approve educator preparation programs** for PREP Program Allotment partnership eligibility.

These EPPs have submitted a letter of intent to apply for PREP preservice approval but are ***still subject to SBEC approval*** (anticipated in summer 2027), which may provide some risk to school systems and EPPs regarding 2027-2028 implementation.

More information will be available in the PREP Preservice webinars.

Upcoming Webinars



Allotment

PREP Program Webinars	Webinar #1	Webinar #2
PREP GYO *	Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:30-11:30 AM	Monday, October 19, 2026 1:30 – 2:30 PM
PREP Residency Preservice	Wednesday, October 14, 2026 10:30-11:30 AM	Tuesday, October 20, 2026 1:30-2:30 PM
PREP Traditional Preservice	Wednesday, October 21, 2026 3:00-4:00 PM	Wednesday, October 28, 2026 1:30-2:30 PM
PREP Alternative Preservice	Thursday, October 15, 2026 12:00-1:00 PM	Thursday, October 22, 2026 10:30-11:30 AM
PREP Mentorship	Friday, October 23, 2026 3:00-4:00 PM	Tuesday, October 27, 2026 12:00-1:00 PM

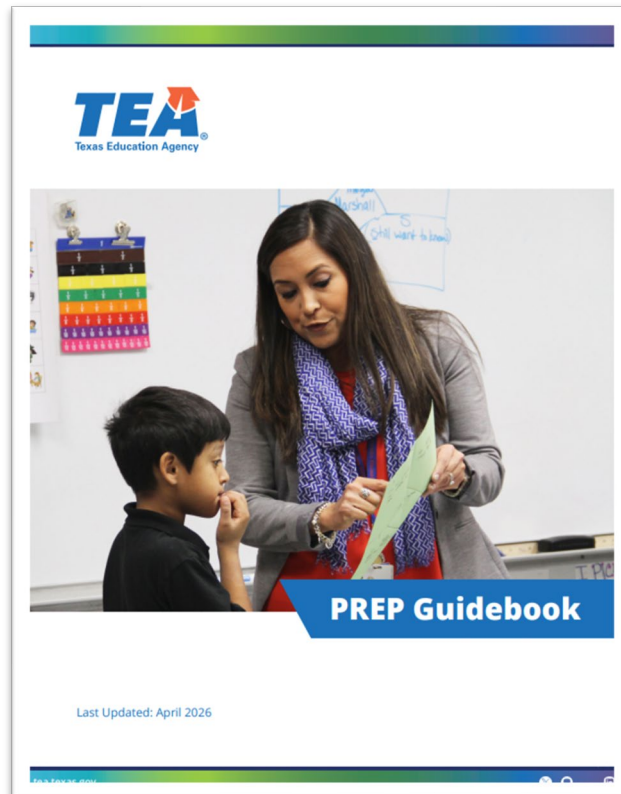
Grant

Related Grant Webinars	Webinar #1	Webinar #2
Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant	Wednesday, October 14, 2026 12:00-1:00 PM	Wednesday, October 28, 2026 10:30 -11:30 AM

*School systems will only be **eligible for PREP GYO** Program if they also participate in a **PREP Preservice** Program.

PREP Guidebook

Version 2 posts by Oct 23



Financial Planning Tool

Version 2 posts by Oct 23

Year	Total District Allotment Estimate	Tuition and Fees	Release Time / Subs	Advising / Support	Other Costs	Total Local Costs	Net From Allotment
16-2027	\$16,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,200.00
17-2028	\$5,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,400.00
18-2029	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19-2030	\$10,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,800.00
20-2031	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Five Year Total	\$32,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,400.00

Year	Total District Allotment Estimate	Resident Salary (\$18K min from allotment)	Host Teacher Stipend (\$2K min)	Salary Match (\$18K min)	Coordinator / Program Cost	Other Costs	Total Local Costs	Net From Allotment
16-2027	\$60,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	-\$50,000.00
17-2028	\$54,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,000.00
18-2029	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19-2030	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
20-2031	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Five Year Total	\$114,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$4,000.00

Year	Total District Allotment Estimate	Resident Salary (\$18K min from allotment)	Host Teacher Stipend (\$1K min)	Salary Match (18% min)	Coordinator / Program Cost	Other Costs	Total Local Costs	Net From Allotment
16-2027	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
17-2028	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18-2029	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19-2030	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
20-2031	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Five Year Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Year	Total District Allotment Estimate	Minimum Stipend Amount Per Mentor Teacher of Record Per Beginning Teacher Assigned (1 k minimum)	Release Time	TMT Training Costs	Other Costs	Total Local Costs	Net From Allotment
16-2027	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00
17-2028	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18-2029	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19-2030	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
20-2031	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Five Year Total	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00

Year	Total District Allotment Estimate	Total Local Costs	Net From Allotment
16-2027	\$109,200.00	\$118,000.00	-\$17,800.00
17-2028	\$59,400.00	\$0.00	\$59,400.00
18-2029	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19-2030	\$10,800.00	\$0.00	\$10,800.00
20-2031	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Five Year Total	\$179,400.00	\$118,000.00	\$61,400.00

Partnership Written Agreements (District-EPP/IHE)

PREP Residency Memorandum of Understanding: 2026-2027

This Memorandum of Understanding ("Agreement") is entered into on _____ between _____ School System (hereinafter, "School System") and _____ Educator Preparation Program (hereinafter, "EPP").

1. Purpose

- To facilitate a learning-centered partnership between the School System and the EPP in compliance with the Preparing & Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment.
- To support a high-quality teacher residency that results in effective classroom practice and positive PK-12 student outcomes.

2. Authority & Citations

This Agreement is intended to satisfy the PREP partnership components and applicable requirements in Texas Education Code (TEC) §§ 21.902, 21.904, and 48.157, and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 228 (as applicable).

3. Term & Renewal

This Agreement begins on _____ and ends on _____ (2026-2027 school year). It may be renewed or amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

4. Collaborative Goals

- Provide Residents with professional instructional coaching and opportunities to engage in co-teaching throughout the clinical placement.
- Ensure compliance with SBEC requirements for Residents seeking initial certification and with PREP Program Allotment requirements.
- Establish and communicate compliance procedures associated with participation in PREP.

5. Shared Governance & Progress Monitoring of Program Quality

- Cadence: The Parties will meet at least quarterly (minimum four meetings per academic year).
- Participation: Each Party will identify expected participants (e.g., district leadership, program manager, campus leaders; EPP legal authority, residency program leadership, field supervision lead) and roles within the governance structure.
- Scope: Parties agree to review current programmatic resident data, host teacher supports, and implementation needs to make just-in-time improvements.

Grow Your Own Program



Earn a bachelor's degree: Partner with an IHE/EPP to enroll the paraprofessional or other employee in a bachelor's program and provide scheduled release time for coursework and advising, so the employee completes their degree and enrolls in an accredited EPP within 3 years.



Gain early teacher training: Provide the employee with on-the-job training on teaching while in their current role, including opportunities for practice under an effective teacher.



Grow future educators: Implement a high school Education and Training CTE pathway to provide early training and practice opportunities for current students to build interest in the teaching profession.



Receive success and need-based funding: PREP Allotment funding flows to the school system per employee, can be used at the school system's discretion for program implementation, including for tuition costs, and is tied to the employee's successful completion of a bachelor's.

*Note: School systems will only be eligible for GYO Program if they also apply for one of the PREP Preservice programs

Funding Snapshot: PREP Grow Your Own Program

(\$8-12K per Employee)



**40 Para-
professionals
per year***



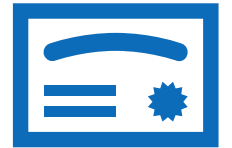
LEA



Paraprofessional



Advisor



IHE

Initial Funding

Per employee who
begins GYO pathway

\$4K

+Rural/High: **\$0K - \$2K**

Success Based Funding

After employee earns
BA + enrolls in an EPP

\$4K

+Rural/High: **\$0K - \$2K**

LEAs may allocate funds received to support IHE tuition costs, costs to provide structured advising to the paraprofessional so they can successfully complete their bachelor degree, costs for employee release time, and other GYO related costs.

*Other employees, besides paraprofessionals, are also eligible.

Residency Preservice Program



Practice-based preparation in a year long residency: Embed the teacher candidate within the school, providing for extensive practice under the supervision of an effective **host** teacher for an **entire school year** prior to becoming a teacher of record.



State developed content*: Ensure high quality training content, including Reading and Math Academies, Bluebonnet Learning and other classroom management content (from trained/certified facilitators).

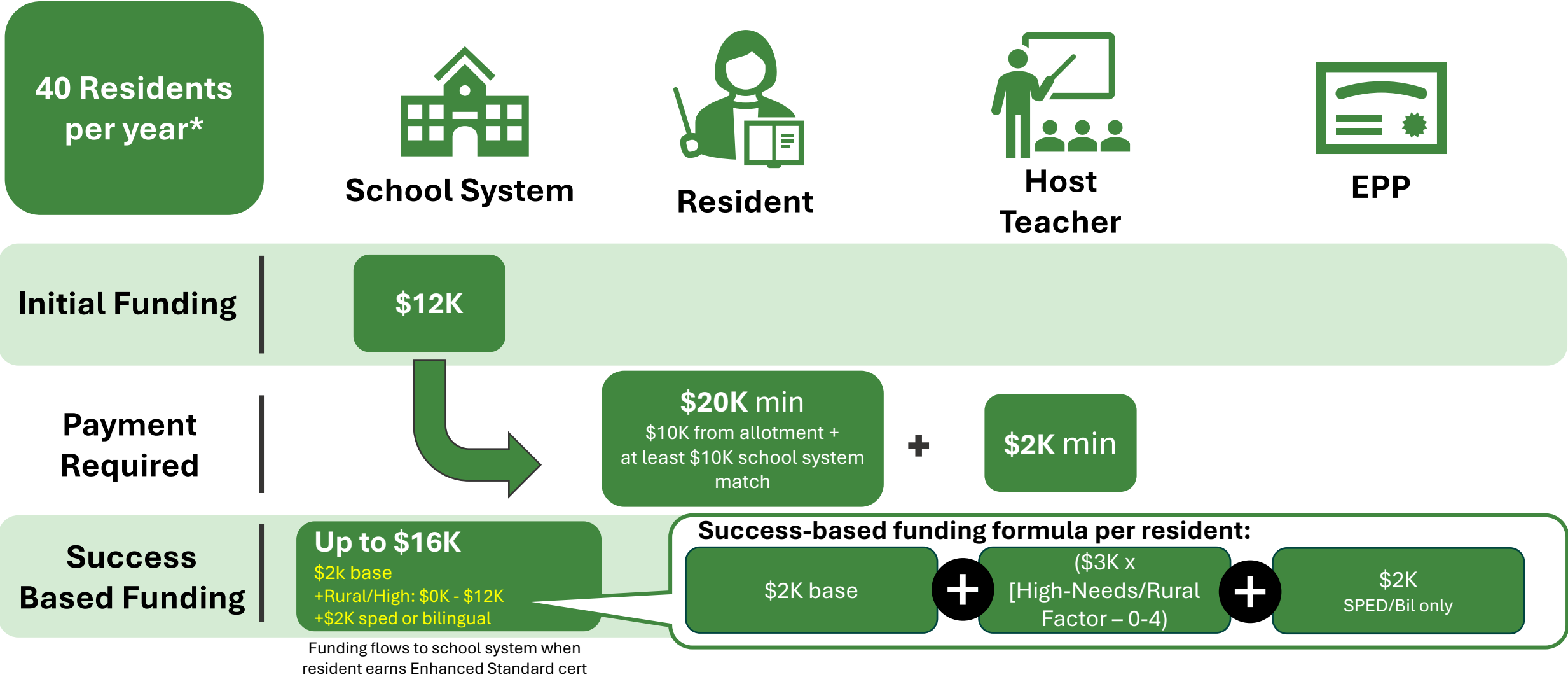


Formal partnerships (with written agreement): School system and EPP create partnerships to ensure alignment of school system needs and vision for instruction, HQIM content, and EPP content and training.



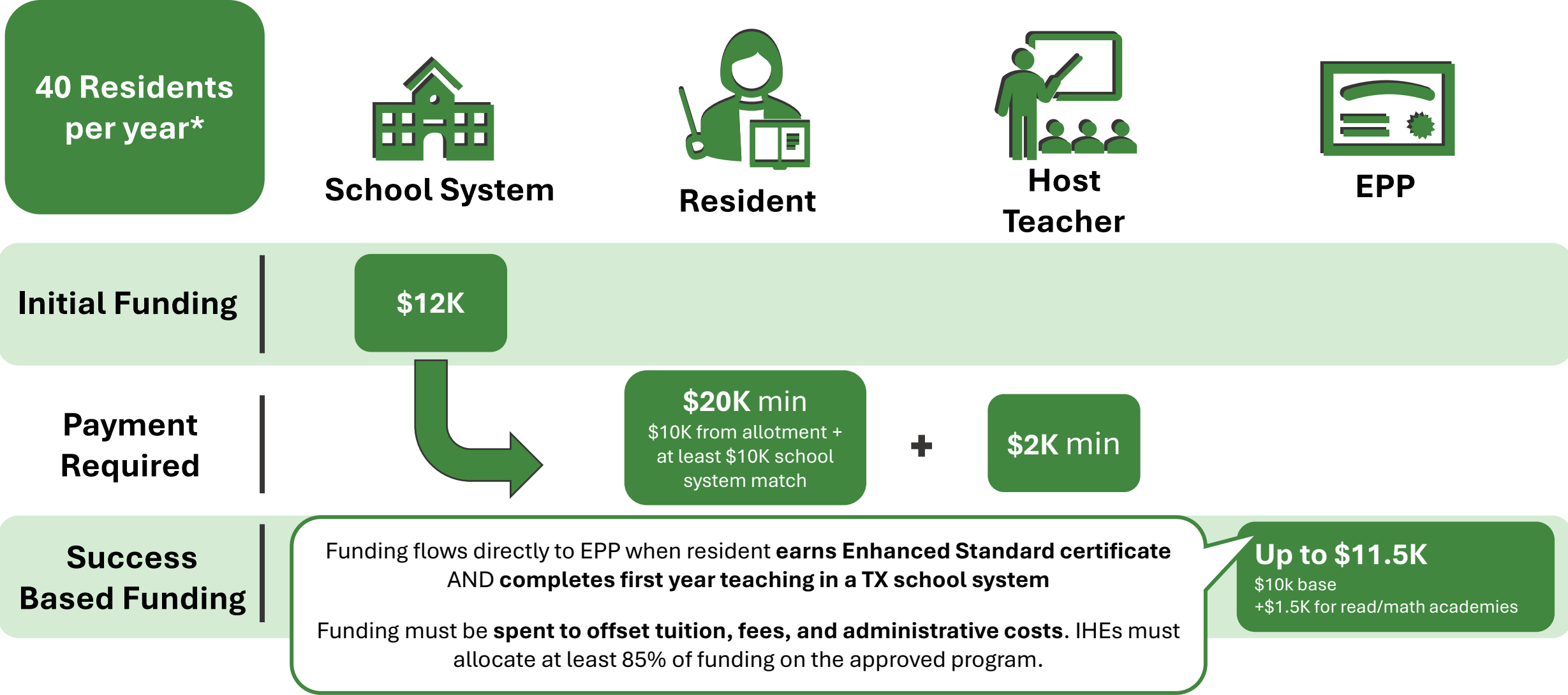
Success and needs-based funding: PREP Allotment funding is split between the EPP and school system, compensates candidates during their residency, and increases for high need areas. Funding is tied to the success of the candidate and flows to the school system when the candidate earns Enhanced Standard certification and to the EPP only when the candidate has also completed a successful first year of teaching.

Funding Snapshot: PREP Residency Preservice Program



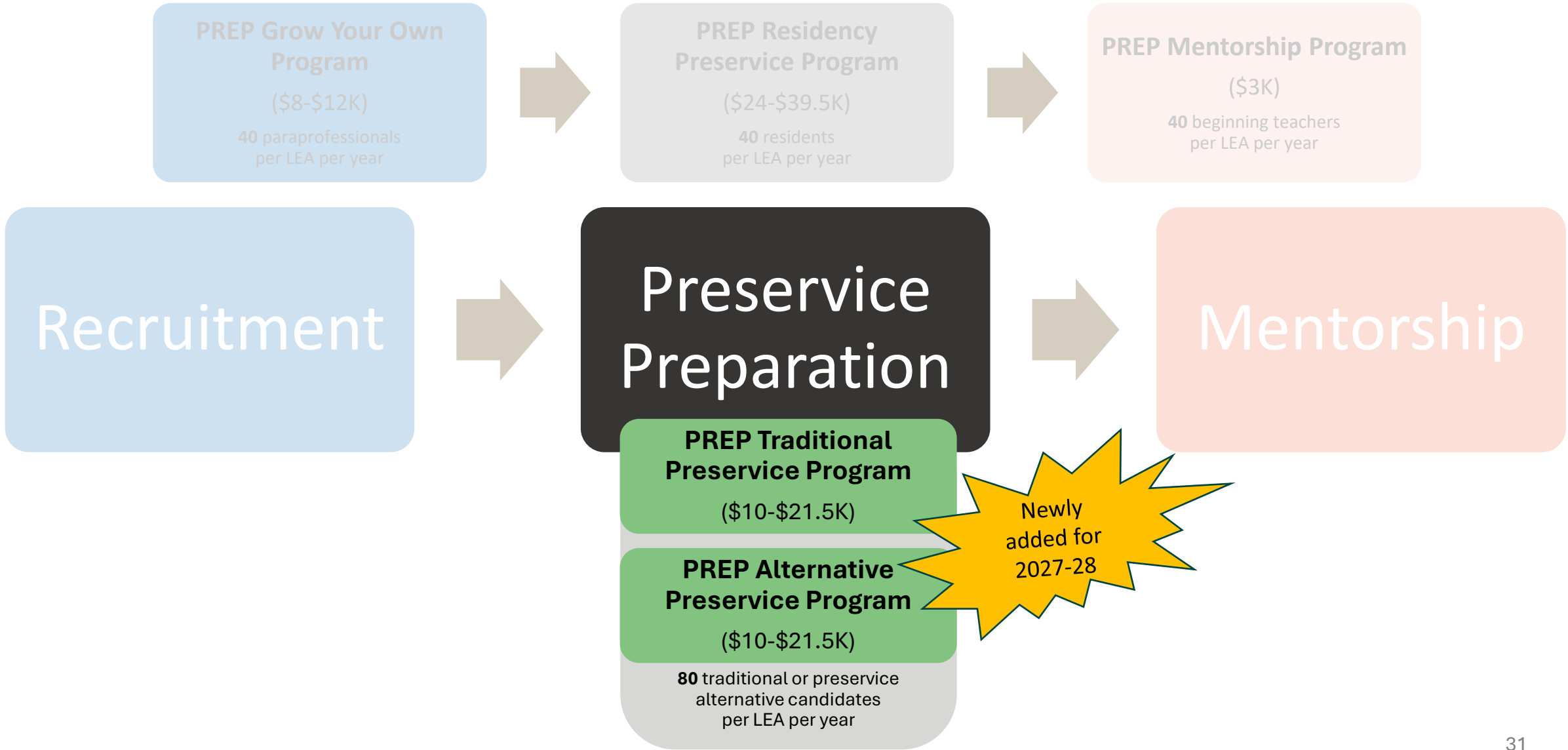
**If total number of residents exceeds 40, funding can also be provided from eligible slots from the Traditional/Preservice Alternative allocation at that lower funding level (\$10k-\$21.5k) for up to an additional 40 residents*

Funding Snapshot: PREP Residency Preservice Program



**If total number of residents exceeds 40, funding can also be provided from eligible slots from the Traditional/Preservice Alternative allocation at that lower funding level (\$10k-\$21.5k) for up to an additional 40 residents*

Launch of PREP Traditional & Alternative Preservice Programs



Traditional Preservice Program



Practice-based preparation in a classroom: Embed the teacher candidate within the school, providing for extensive practice under the supervision of an effective **cooperating** teacher in a **paid semester-long student teaching experience**.



State developed content: Ensure high quality training content, including Reading and Math Academies, Bluebonnet Learning and other classroom management content (from trained/certified facilitators).

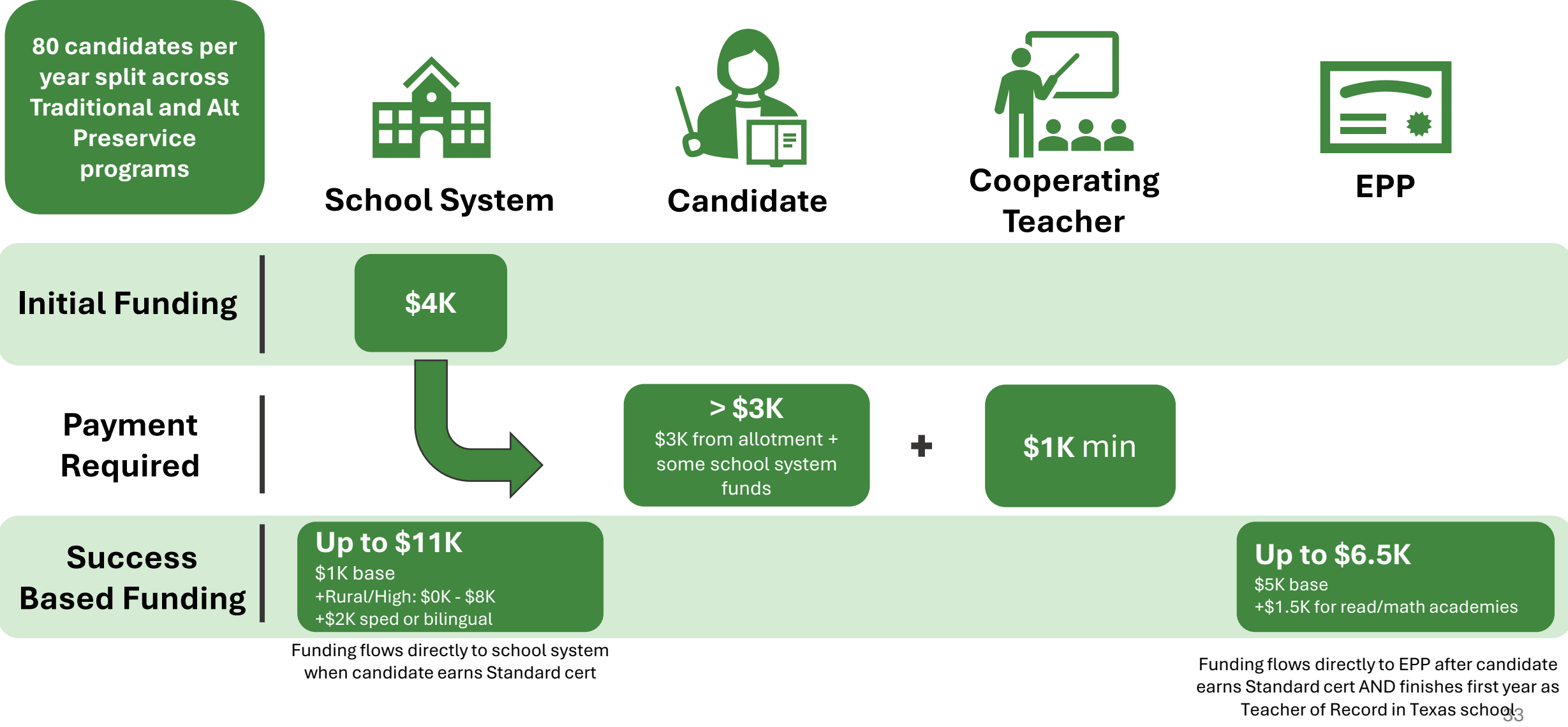


Formal partnerships (with written agreement): **School system** and EPP create partnerships to ensure alignment of school system needs and vision for instruction, HQIM content, and EPP content and training.



Success and need-based funding: PREP Allotment funding is split between the EPP and school system, compensates candidates during student teaching, and increases for high need areas. Funding is tied to the success of the candidate and flows to the school system when the candidate earns Standard certification and to the EPP once the candidate has also completed a successful first year of teaching.

Funding Snapshot: PREP Traditional Preservice Program



Alternative Preservice Program



Practice-based preparation in a classroom: Embed the teacher candidate within the school, providing for extensive practice under the supervision of an effective **cooperating** teacher in a well-structured, **clinical preservice practice experience**, with options ranging from a summer intensive to a year long periodic practice engagement.



State developed content: Ensure high quality training content, including Reading and Math Academies, Bluebonnet Learning and other classroom management content (from trained/certified facilitators). Reading and Math Academies must be partially completed before the candidate begins as a teacher of record.



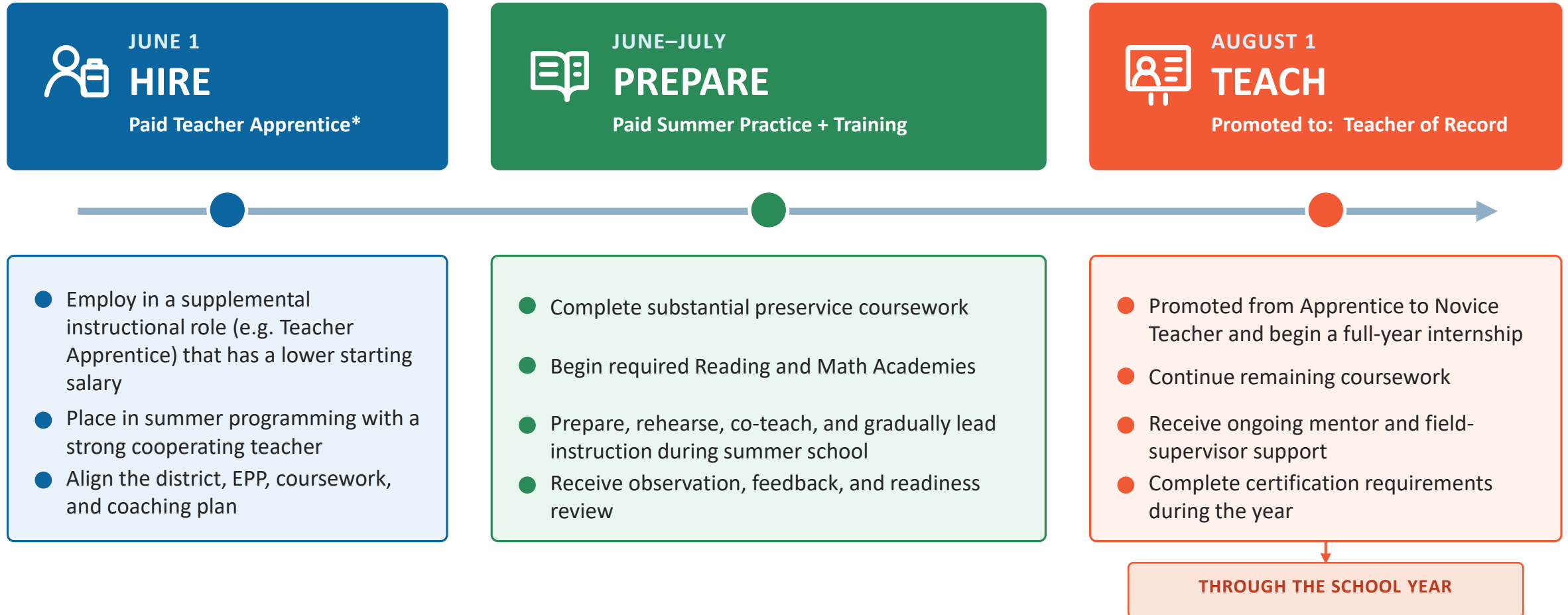
Formal partnerships (with written agreement): **School systems** and EPP create partnerships to ensure alignment of school system needs and vision for instruction, HQIM content, and EPP content and training.



Success and need-based funding: PREP Allotment funding is split between the EPP and school system, compensates candidates during pre-service practice, and increases for high need areas. Funding is tied to the success of the candidate and flows to the school system when the candidate earns intern with preservice experience certification. The first half of funding flows to the EPP when the candidate earns an Intern with Preservice experience certificate and the second half once the candidates earns a Standard certificate.

Example: A Summer Runway Into Teaching

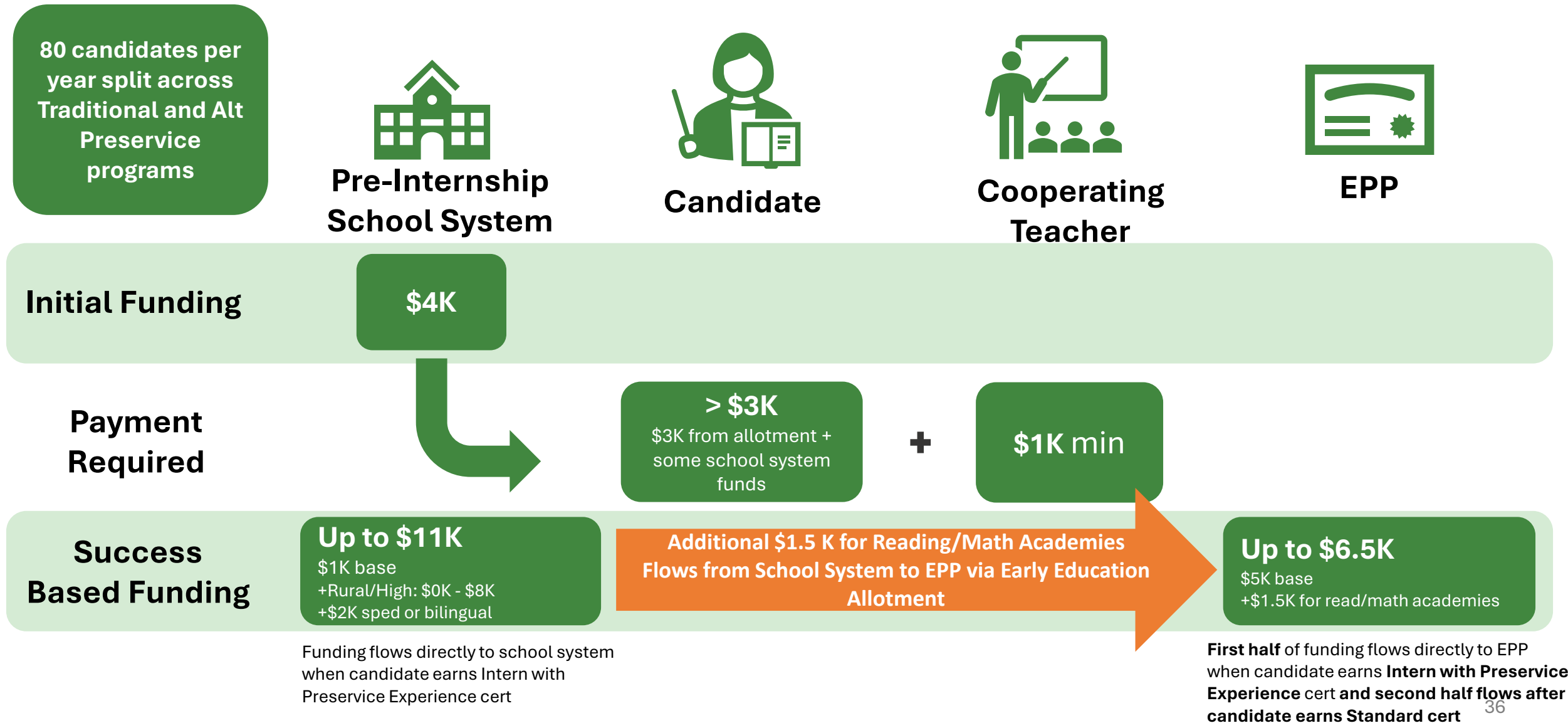
One way a district could implement the Preservice Alternative Certification route



Instead of hiring an unprepared teacher in August, hire a future teacher in June and use the summer to prepare the person for the classroom.

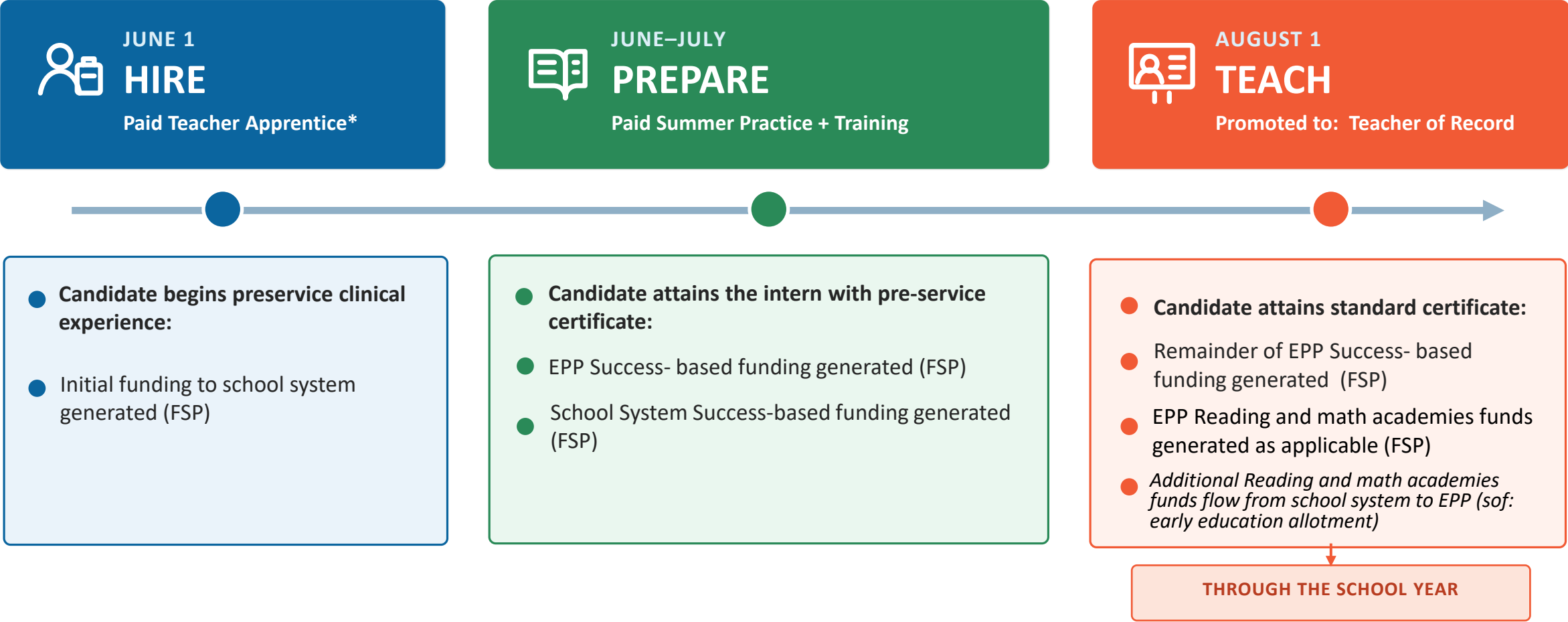
* "Teacher Apprentice" is an illustrative local role label; the district and EPP determine the employment structure.

Funding Snapshot: PREP Alternative Preservice Program



Summary of Relevant Funding for the Alternative Preservice Program

When is funding generated for each PREP Alternative Preservice Partner?



Critical Success-based funds flow as soon as the candidate completes their preservice clinical experience

Mentorship Program



Structured novice teacher support: Assign teachers in their 1st and 2nd year to a trained mentor who provides coaching and support during the instructional day.



State developed mentorship training: Provide mentors and supporting district/campus leaders with training on mentoring best practices via the agency-required Texas Mentorship Training.



Financial support: PREP Allotment funding flows to the school system per beginning teacher (teachers in their 1st or 2nd year of teaching) to provide the mentor teacher with at least \$1K stipend and support program implementation, including funding training costs and mentor/mentee release time.

Funding: PREP Mentorship Program

40
beginning
teachers
per year



School System



Mentor Teacher



Training

Annual Funding

Per teacher in
their 1st or 2nd
year being
mentored

\$3K

At least
\$1K
stipend
(per beginning
teacher assigned)

\$500
Per Participant
Per Pathway

*If partnering with a non-ESC
training provider, cost may
vary

School systems may allocate remaining funds received to provide additional stipends to mentors, cover release time for mentor and novice teacher, additional mentor training and/or strategic staffing training

Business Office Guidance

Mandated and Discretionary Spending



Grow Your Own

MANDATED

- Program implementation and participant tuition and fees

DISCRETIONARY (REMAINING FUNDS)

- High school Education and Training program
- Tuition for aspiring teachers
- Wrap-around and transition supports
- Strategic staffing training
- Employee preparation costs
- Local salaries for program implementation

TAC §153.1304(f)

Residency Preservice

MANDATED

- Resident pay: at least \$20,000, with \$10,000 from the allotment
- Host teacher stipend: at least \$2,000 per resident

DISCRETIONARY (REMAINING FUNDS)

- Texas Mentorship Training costs*
- Program implementation supports
- EPP partner supports
- Host teacher stipend expansion
- Strategic staffing training

TEC §21.904; TAC §153.1303(g)

Traditional and Alternative Preservice

MANDATED

- Teacher candidate pay: at least \$3,000 from the allotment
- Cooperating teacher stipend: at least \$1,000

DISCRETIONARY (REMAINING FUNDS)

- Additional teacher candidate pay above the \$3,000 minimum
- PREP rule amendments are anticipated in 2026-27

TEC §21.903(c)-(d); TEC §21.905(c)-(d)

Mentorship

MANDATED

- Mentor stipend: at least \$1,000 per beginning teacher, annually

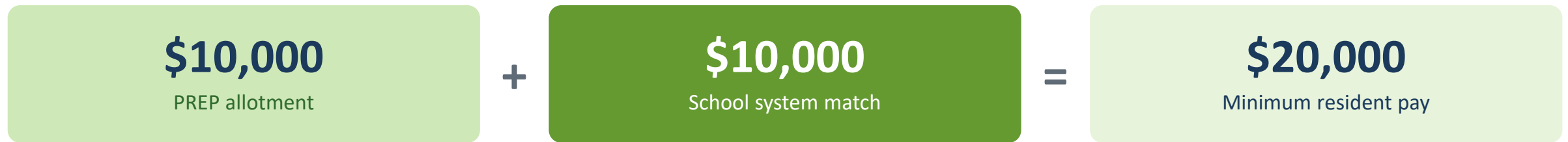
DISCRETIONARY (REMAINING FUNDS)

- Texas Mentorship Training costs*
- Release time for mentoring activities
- Strategic staffing training
- Staff overseeing mentorship training requirements

TAC §153.1305(d)

**All host, cooperating, and mentor teachers must participate in Texas Mentorship Training*

Supplemental Funding for Residency



While prior guidance restricted the use of federal funds, recent federal guidance provided to the state indicates that federal funds may directly satisfy state-required PREP expenditures such as the \$10,000 resident cost match.

Application Overview

Eligibility Criteria: School Systems



School systems, which includes **districts and charter schools** as defined below, are eligible to apply to each of the PREP Programs. Each eligible applicant is subject to PREP Program Allotment statutorily-based funding caps described in each of the program's guidelines.

For the purposes of the PREP Program Allotment, a charter school is defined as a Texas public school that:

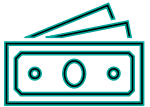
- is operated by a charter holder under an open-enrollment charter granted either by the State Board of Education or commissioner of education pursuant to Texas Education Code (TEC), §12.101, identified with its own county district number;
- has a charter granted under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C*;
- has a charter granted under TEC, §29.259 and Human Resources Code, §221.002*; or
- has a charter granted under TEC, §11.157(b).

**Reference the following two slides for eligibility specifics for SB Operating Partners and Adult Charter Schools.*

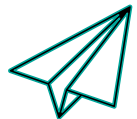
Eligibility Criteria: SB 1882 Operating Partners



Senate Bill 1882 Operating Partners that have a charter granted under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C are eligible applicants for the PREP Program Allotment.



Funding: SB 1882 Operating Partners are subject to the statutorily-based funding caps described in each of the PREP Program's guidelines.



Applications: SB 1882 Operating Partner leaders will receive unique links to their applications.



Written agreements: Since foundation school program (FSP) funding will flow to the partner district, SB Operating Partners must have a written agreement with the partner district to document how allotment funds generated through the partnership will be spent.

Eligibility Criteria: Adult Charter Schools

Adult charter schools that have a charter granted under TEC, §29.259 and Human Resources Code, §221.002 **may participate in the PREP Mentorship Program** only.

Adult charter schools that have a charter granted under TEC, §29.259 and Human Resources Code, §221.002 are ineligible to participate in the PREP Preservice Programs and PREP Grow Your Own Programs.



Note: TEC, §21.902 requires PREP preservice programs to place teacher candidates in prekindergarten through grade 12 classrooms.

Prior to applying, applicants should review the relevant sections of the Texas Administrative Code below aligned to their programs of interest.

- TEC [§21.901](#) – PREP Definitions
- TEC [§21.902](#) – PREP Preservice Programs
- TEC [§21.904](#) – PREP Preservice Residency Program
- TEC [§21.906](#) – PREP Grow Your Own Program
- TEC [§21.907](#) – PREP Mentorship Program
- TEC [§21.909](#) – Program Standards and Performance Goals
- TEC [§48.157](#) – PREP Program Allotment

Prior to applying, applicants should review the relevant sections of the Texas Administrative Code below aligned to their programs of interest.

- [TAC §153.1301](#) – PREP Definitions
- [TAC §153.1302](#) – General Provisions for PREP
- [TAC §153.1303](#) – PREP Residency Preservice Program*
- [TAC §153.1304](#) – PREP Grow Your Own Program
- [TAC §153.1305](#) – PREP Mentorship Program
- [TAC §153.1306](#) – Educator Preparation Program Training Content for PREP

Note: TEA anticipates posting for public comment proposed amendments to PREP Program Allotment rules during the 2026-27 school year, which would become effective prior to the start of the 2027-28 school year. TEA anticipates sharing specific dates related to rulemaking in the coming months. The amendments will include new provisions for the PREP Traditional Preservice Program & the PREP Alternative Preservice Program.

To calculate allotments and monitor PREP Program implementation, TEA will require districts to submit information. Annually, school systems must, at minimum:

- Submit identification information of PREP Program participants (e.g., residents) in ECOS
- Submit campus placements in ECOS
- Report spending of the PREP Program Allotment in a format determined by TEA
- Ensure program participants, such as residents, beginning teachers, and mentors complete annual program perception surveys administered by TEA

School System Roles & Responsibilities

School System PREP Allotment Lead	School System PREP Program Manager
✓ Serve as the school system's primary liaison with TEA regarding PREP communications and requests.	✓ Serve as the primary point of contact for implementation of a PREP program within the school system (e.g., PREP Grow Your Own Program).
✓ Coordinate communication, collaboration, and alignment among PREP Program Managers and other stakeholders.	✓ Coordinate implementation activities, partners, participants, and stakeholders for a specific PREP program.
✓ Help monitor key PREP deadlines, reporting requirements, and implementation activities.	✓ Monitor and manage program-specific deadlines, requirements, and deliverables.
✓ Support cross-departmental collaboration related to PREP programs.	✓ Collaborate with program partners, campuses, and internal stakeholders to support successful implementation of the assigned PREP program.
✓ Assist in identifying and resolving implementation challenges as they arise.	✓ Identify and address implementation challenges within the assigned PREP program.
✓ Promote continuous improvement across PREP programs.	✓ Monitor program progress and identify opportunities to strengthen implementation and outcomes within the assigned PREP program.

School System Roles & Responsibilities



School System PREP Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) Lead

- ✓ Serve as the school system's primary point of contact for PREP-related ECOS data entry and reporting requirements.
- ✓ Enter and maintain required employee, participant, and placement information in ECOS for PREP Allotment calculations.
- ✓ Coordinate with partners (e.g., EPPs, IHEs) and school system staff (e.g., HR, certification) to ensure ECOS data are complete, accurate, and submitted on time.
- ✓ Monitor TEA deadlines and reporting requirements related to PREP ECOS submissions.
- ✓ Verify and resolve data quality issues, discrepancies, or missing information that may affect PREP Allotment eligibility or funding calculations.
- ✓ Maintain availability during summer reporting periods when annual ECOS data entry and verification activities occur. Roles with standard 187-day instructional contracts may not provide sufficient summer availability.

PREP EPP Lead

- ✓ Serve as the primary point of contact between the EPP and school system regarding the PREP Program Allotment and between the EPP and TEA
- ✓ Coordinate planning, communications, reporting, and key deadlines across participating departments and staff regarding each PREP program
- ✓ Ensure EPP participation in governance meetings and completion of partnership agreements in alignment with the program guidelines for each PREP Allotment program
- ✓ Support cross-departmental collaboration related to PREP programs
- ✓ Help monitor key PREP deadlines, reporting requirements, and implementation activities
- ✓ Assist in identifying and resolving implementation challenges as they arise.

EPP PREP ECOS Lead

- ✓ Serve as the EPP's primary point of contact for PREP-related ECOS data entry and reporting requirements.
- ✓ Enter and maintain required employee, participant, and placement information in the Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) for PREP Allotment calculations.
- ✓ Coordinate with school system partners and relevant EPP staff to ensure ECOS data is complete, accurate, and submitted on time.
- ✓ Monitor TEA deadlines and reporting requirements related to PREP ECOS submissions.
- ✓ Verify and resolve data quality issues, discrepancies, or missing information that may affect PREP Allotment eligibility or funding calculations.
- ✓ Maintain availability during summer reporting periods when annual ECOS data entry and verification activities occur.

LASO Application Process



Step 1: Review the PREP Program Allotment Overview PDF.

Step 2: Review each of the PREP Program Guidelines & accompanying materials

Step 3: Engage school system, educator preparation program, institutions of higher education, Texas Mentorship Training, and other appropriate stakeholders to determine school system needs and right fit PREP Programs. Invite stakeholder to join LASO webinars on PREP Programs.

Step 4: Submit LASO applications by 5:00 p.m. CT on December 1, 2026.

Step 5: Submit PREP Partnership Agreement Form that TEA sends out by the timeline communicated for each of your PREP partnerships.

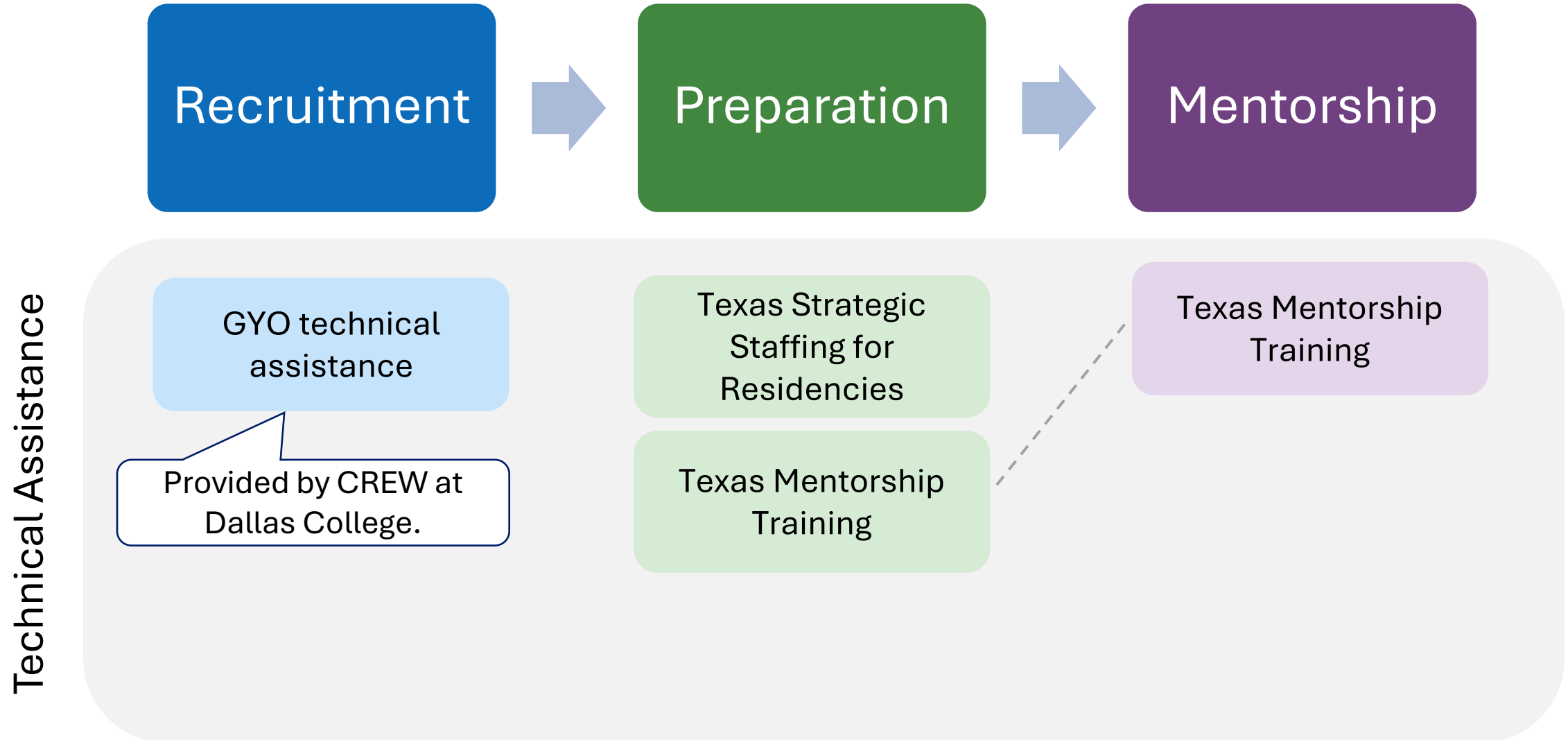
All eligible applicants that meet eligibility requirements and agree to the program assurances will be funded according to the statutorily-based caps and per the funding formula in TEC, §48.157 (PREP Allotment).

There will be no interviews for PREP Programs available through the LASO Cycle 5 applications.

Note: Upcoming webinars will review the funding formulas for each of the PREP Programs.

Program Supports & Services

Current PREP TA: School Systems + Partners



Texas Mentorship Training

Upcoming webinars cover LASO Cycle 5 PREP Programs



TMT is required in SY 27-28 for all PREP Preservice programs

Grow Your Own

Residency*

Traditional*

Alternative*

Mentorship*

*Requires
Texas Mentorship Training

Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) Vision



The Texas Mentorship Training exists to ensure that every pre-service and beginning teacher in the state receives the guidance and support needed to thrive, leading to increased teacher **effectiveness**, higher **retention**, and a lasting impact on **student success**.



The Texas Mentorship Training Overview



- Has been created, developed, piloted, and scaled in response to **stakeholder feedback**
- Is required for **PREP Mentorship** and **PREP Preservice routes (new in 2027-2028)** and fulfills existing policy requirements so mentoring educators who are TMT trained are not required to also attend EPP training
- Aligns to the Classroom Teacher Pedagogy **Standards**, Texas Teacher Evaluation & Support System (**T-TESS**) and Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (**LIFT**)

Early TMT Perception Data (Statewide)



Mentoring Educators

- **98% net agree** that as a result of the training session they feel prepared to support their mentee(s) during the next months of the school year.
- **96% net agree** that the training was a good use of their time.



District and Campus Leaders

- **98% net agree** that the actions developed in the design session will positively impact their school system's mentoring program.
- **99% net agree** that the design session was a good use of their time.



*Data as of August 31, 2026

TMT Scope and Sequence: 2027-28 School Year



Summer 2027	Fall 2027	Winter 2028	Spring 2028
12 hours	6 hours	3 hours	3 hours
• Effective mentoring partnerships and behaviors • Supporting mentees with the learning environment • Co-teaching practices • Instructional preparation	• Modeling and providing actionable feedback	• Data-driven instructional practices	• Refinements and continuous learning

PREP Preservice: EPP and school system provide support established in shared governance

PREP Mentorship: School systems provide support established via District & Campus Leader Design Sessions

Mentoring educator training total hours = 24 hours

Texas Mentorship Training Approved Providers



Empowering Educators, Strengthening Mentorship

High-quality training to equip mentors, cooperating (host) teachers, and education leaders with the skills to support and retain aspiring and early-career teachers.

[Learn More](#)



Pathway 1

Mentoring Educators

Equips educators who directly mentor teacher candidates and early-career teachers with knowledge and skills to support effective classroom practices.

[View Pathway 1](#)



Pathway 2

Campus and District Leaders

Develops the capacity of school and district leaders to create, implement, and sustain impactful mentoring programs.

[View Pathway 2](#)



Visit the Texas
Mentorship Training
website for information
on approved training
providers, including all
20 Education Service
Centers.

[Statewide Contacts | Texas
Mentorship Training](#)

TMT Source of Funds & Payments



The Texas Mentorship Training is \$500 per participant.* To pay for training, school system may use:

Teacher Type	PREP Success-Based Funding	PREP Mentorship Funds
Mentor Teachers to Beginning Teachers and District & Campus Leaders	NA	X
Host Teachers also serving a Mentor Teachers to Beginning Teachers	X	X
Mentors of Interns, Cooperating Teachers and Host Teachers	X	NA

*This training cost reflects partnering with an ESC. Other approved providers costs may vary.

Texas Mentorship Training is only required every 3 years



Year 1 2027-28 School Year

ALL
PREP Preservice
route funded and
NEW PREP
Mentorship
funded mentoring
educators trained
via Texas
Mentorship
Training



Year 2 2028-29 School Year

NEW PREP funded
mentoring
educators trained
via Texas
Mentorship
Training



Year 3 2029-2030 School Year

NEW PREP funded
mentoring
educators trained
via Texas
Mentorship
Training



Year 4 2030-31 School Year

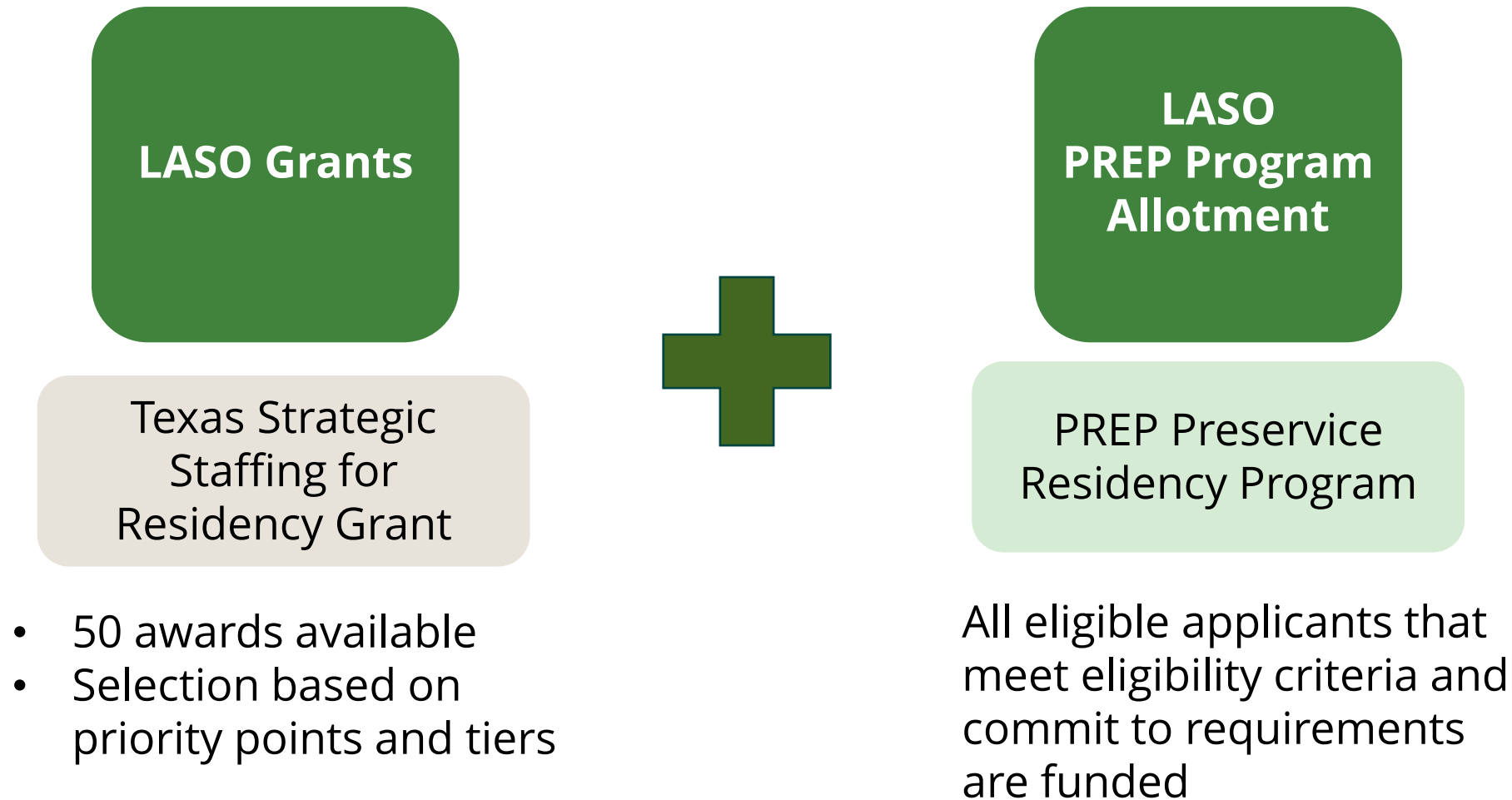
New mentoring
educators trained
on Texas
Mentorship
Training + Y1 PREP
mentoring
educators mentor
teachers renew
training via
refresher.

Ongoing training and support is required in
Y2 and Y3 for mentoring educators and
should be specified in written agreement
with the district and EPP.

* Mentoring Educators trained in
the 2026-2027 school year will
need to be trained in 2029-2030

Texas Strategic Staffing Grant

The Texas Strategic Staffing Grant can support the implementation of the PREP Preservice Residency Program*



**Technical assistance received from this grant includes a "design year" in 2027-28 and an "implementation year" to support residents placed in 2028-29*

The Texas Strategic Staffing (TSS) for Residencies grant...

Facilitates a **two-year process for school systems and their EPP partners** to design and implement a paid residency through strategic staffing approaches.



Engages partnerships with **in-kind technical assistance** provided by ESCs



Provides \$58.4k for program supports (e.g., Strategic Staffing Lead, resident or host teacher stipends)



Builds a residency model that can be sustained through the **PREP Preservice Residency Allotment** beyond the grant

How Strategic Staffing Multiplies Educator Impact



*Strategic staffing gives residents **paid instructional roles** that meet campus needs, while creating time for your **strongest teachers** to reach more students.*

Campus Instructional Needs

Residents take on paid roles that meet instructional needs



Substitute Teachers



Extending Teacher Reach



Reaching More Students



Student Support



Filling Teacher Vacancies

The result: Strategic Staffing helps schools maximize educator talent, strengthen instructional capacity, increase impact across the campus, and enable more strategic use of available PREP funding.

All eligible school systems may apply for the TSS grant (current TSS or P2L grant recipients are not eligible)

To see strategic staffing model descriptions and get more information at the [Texas Strategic Staffing website](https://tss.tea.texas.gov) (tss.tea.texas.gov)

Grow Your Own Supports



PREP GYO Program school systems will receive free **in-kind technical supports** from the Center for Reigniting the Educator Workforce (CREW) to strengthen Grow Your Own planning and implementation.



Supports will include **a webinar series**, GYO planning **toolkit**, and **thought partnership**. School system points of contact will receive information for joining an informational webinar to learn more about them. **Enrollment is automatic for all GYO school systems.**



Learn more about CREW and their intensive supports available as a competitive application at txcrew.org.

Supports Through In-Kind Technical Assistance

School systems will be asked to commit to:

- Attending all webinars
- Submitting planning documents according to the published timelines (exact dates to be shared by CREW)



Path Forward

Upcoming Webinars



Allotment

PREP Program Webinars	Webinar #1	Webinar #2
PREP GYO *	Thursday, October 8, 2026 10:30-11:30 AM	Monday, October 19, 2026 1:30 – 2:30 PM
PREP Residency Preservice	Wednesday, October 14, 2026 10:30-11:30 AM	Tuesday, October 20, 2026 1:30-2:30 PM
PREP Traditional Preservice	Wednesday, October 21, 2026 3:00-4:00 PM	Wednesday, October 28, 2026 1:30-2:30 PM
PREP Alternative Preservice	Thursday, October 15, 2026 12:00-1:00 PM	Thursday, October 22, 2026 10:30-11:30 AM
PREP Mentorship	Friday, October 23, 2026 3:00-4:00 PM	Tuesday, October 27, 2026 12:00-1:00 PM

Grant

Related Grant Webinars	Webinar #1	Webinar #2
Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant	Wednesday, October 14, 2026 12:00-1:00 PM	Wednesday, October 28, 2026 10:30 -11:30 AM

*School systems will only be **eligible for PREP GYO** Program if they also participate in a **PREP Preservice** Program.

PREP Program Partnership Agreement Forms



For PREP Allotment applicants, TEA will send a **Partnership Agreement Form** for each of the PREP programs that school system applied to. TEA will communicate information and timelines for submitting a Partnership Agreement Form.

Continuing school systems

Approved through LASO Cycle 4

- TEA shares your current partnerships (also posted online)
- Add a partner: select the EPP or IHE in the form
- Drop a partner: indicate which one is ending
- Continuing partners: no action needed; keep agreements on file

New LASO Cycle 5 applicants

Applications due December 1, 2026

- Name your EPP and IHE partners in your LASO application
- Assure you will complete the Partnership Agreement Form by the due date communicated by TEA.

Approved PREP programs continue approval automatically each year

- No reapplication is needed
- A school system that decides not to implement an approved program in 2027-28 can opt out through a simple process TEA will communicate in 2027

Applies to school systems approved through LASO Cycle 4 or LASO Cycle 5

How opt-outs will work:

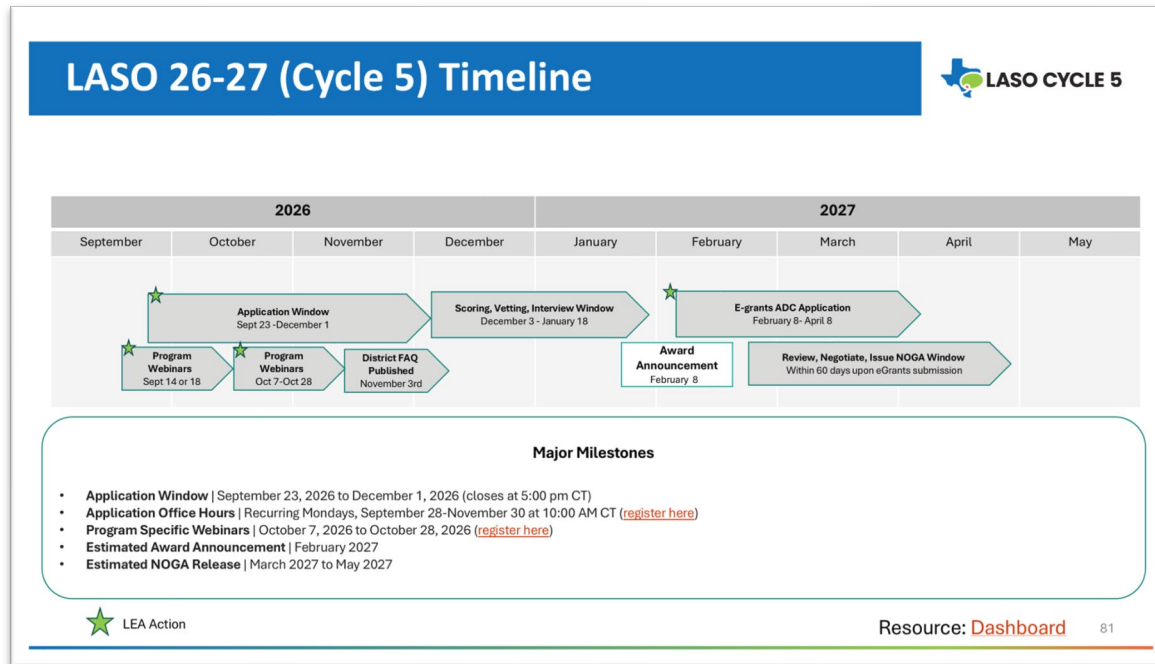
1. **TEA sends the opt-out form** to approved school systems with the published 2027 timeline.
2. **School system submits the form**, selecting the program(s) they will not implement in 2027-28 and share a brief reason.

ECOS data entry determines PREP program participation and funding

General LASO vs. PREP LASO Timeline

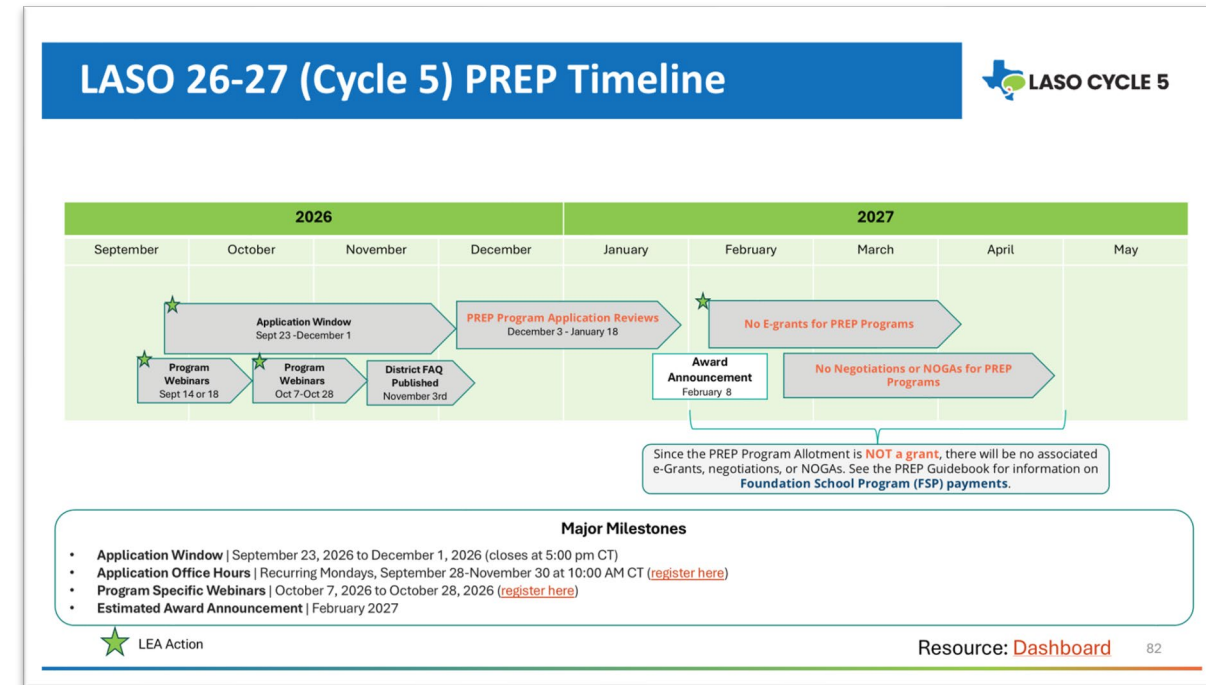


LASO Grants Timeline



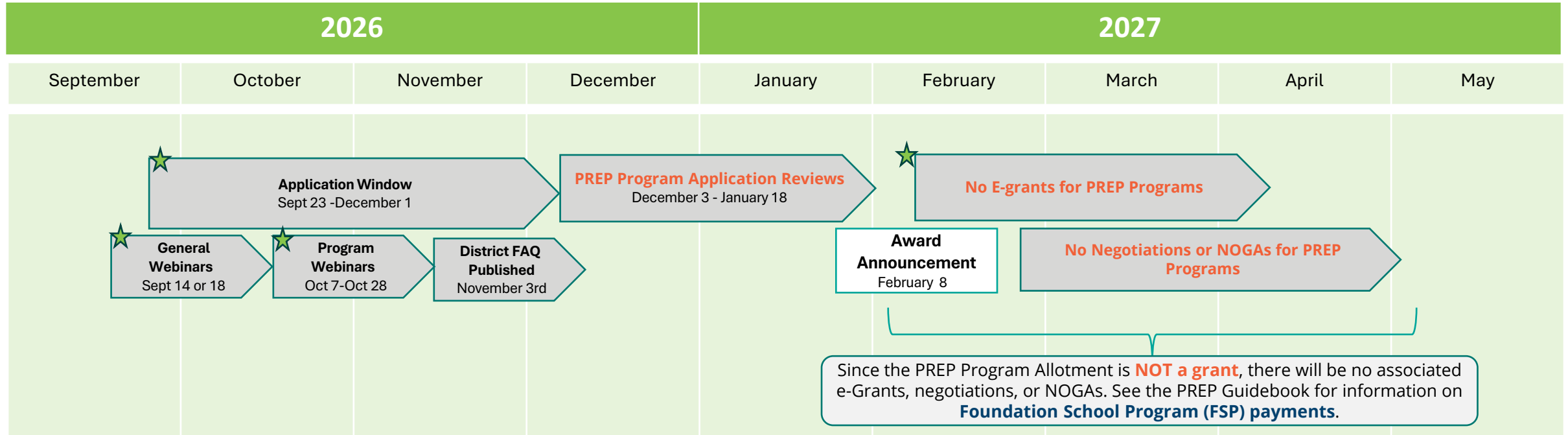
The LASO general webinar and grant webinars will explain this timeline.

LASO PREP Allotment Timeline



*Differences between the LASO Grants vs. PREP Allotment timelines are in **orange** text.*

LASO 26-27 (Cycle 5) PREP Timeline



Major Milestones

- **Application Window** | September 23, 2026 to December 1, 2026 (closes at 5:00 pm CT)
- **Application Office Hours** | Recurring Mondays, September 28-November 30 at 10:00 AM CT ([register here](#))
- **Program Specific Webinars** | October 7, 2026 to October 28, 2026 ([register here](#))
- **Estimated Award Announcement** | February 2027



**School systems
must submit
LASO Cycle 5
applications by
December 1 at
5:00pm CST**



TEA emailed unique application links to school system superintendents on September 23 (if needed, LEAs can complete a [Request for Application Link Form](#) to receive a new link)



PDF of the application is posted on the [LASO Cycle 5 website](#); however, school systems must submit the application through Qualtrics using the unique application link



Applications must be signed by the superintendent to be accepted

PREP Office Hours and Newsletters



Office Hours

Attend office hours for technical assistance or discussion with program teams

Program	Date and Time	Registration
PREP Residency	Thursday, November 5, 12:30 PM CT	Registration Link
PREP Mentorship	Wednesday, November 18, 10:30 AM CT	Registration Link
PREP Traditional	Wednesday, November 18, 11:30 AMCT	Registration Link
PREP Alternative	Thursday, November 19, 11:30 AM CT	Registration Link
PREP GYO	Thursday, November 19, 1:30 PM CT	Registration Link



Subscribe to the [PREP Newsletter](#) for the latest PREP updates and resources.

Questions?



FAQs

Review the general FAQ (updated FAQs will be posted by November 8)

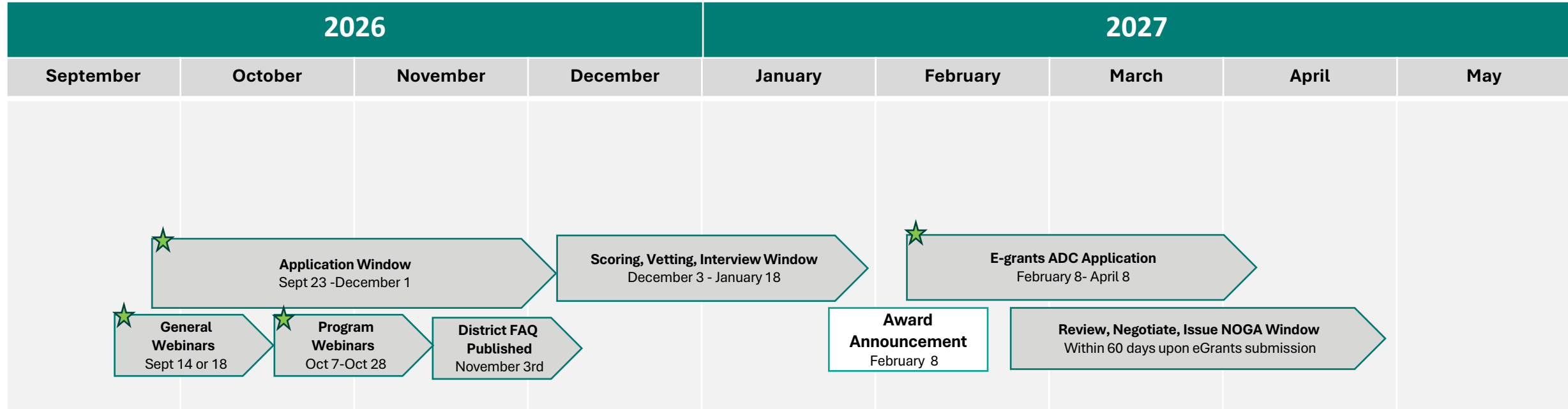
Email



- For questions about the application process or technical assistance with the application, contact LASO@tea.texas.gov
- For questions about PREP, submit them to the [PREP Help Desk](#)

Appendix

LASO 26-27 (Cycle 5) Timeline



Major Milestones

- **Application Window** | September 23, 2026 to December 1, 2026 (closes at 5:00 pm CT)
- **Application Office Hours** | Recurring Mondays, September 28-November 30 at 10:00 AM CT ([register here](#))
- **Program Specific Webinars** | October 7, 2026 to October 28, 2026 ([register here](#))
- **Estimated Award Announcement** | February 2027
- **Estimated NOGA Release** | March 2027 to May 2027

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
To access the PREP allotment moving forward, will a LASO application be needed? Residency, GYO and Mentorship in particular.	School systems interested and new to any of the five programs within the PREP Program Allotment will need to submit an application via LASO Cycle 5. A school system does not need to reapply through LASO Cycle 5 for a PREP GYO, Residency, or Mentorship program if it was previously approved for that program through LASO Cycle 4 and meets all the following conditions: (1) Received from TEA an award announcement via the LASO Cycle 4 process, (2) Submitted to TEA a PREP Verification of Participation form in summer 2026, (3) Submitted to TEA a written agreement for GYO or Residency (not applicable for Mentorship)
If we already participate in PREP allotment and were part of the PREP in LASO 4, Do we still apply again for LASO 5 PREP?	School systems interested and new to any of the five programs within the PREP Program Allotment will need to submit an application via LASO Cycle 5. A school system does not need to reapply through LASO Cycle 5 for a PREP GYO, Residency, or Mentorship program if it was previously approved for that program through LASO Cycle 4 and meets all the following conditions: (1) Received from TEA an award announcement via the LASO Cycle 4 process, (2) Submitted to TEA a PREP Verification of Participation form in summer 2026, (3) Submitted to TEA a written agreement for GYO or Residency (not applicable for Mentorship)
Does the decline in PREP programs, increase the district's risk level as well as the grants?	The PREP Program is an allotment, not a grant. Declining a PREP program does not have an impact on the district's grant risk level.

Thank you!