Frequently Asked Questions for TLG

This document will provide frequently asked questions, to guide our partners in their decision-making process to determine which grants are the best fit, aligned to district goals and needs.

General Questions and Resources

Question: If your district has received the Tech lending grant back in 2017 are we eligible to apply again?
Answer: Yes- to any school district regardless of prior awarding. New devices, not replacement of lost, stolen, end-of-life, devices only.

Question: Did you say small and rural LEAs would be prioritized in this round of grants? What Percentage of medium, large, and urban LEA's would receive funding?
Answer: Here are the Program Guidelines for your review: https://tea.texas.gov/media/393936, please see page 18

Question: If we received LASO Tech Lending (LASO 1) are we eligible to apply for LASO 3 Tech Lending?
Answer: Yes.

Question: Are you required to implement the hotspots and at home technology if you currently do not have that in place?
Answer: No, it is not a requirement that internet access be provided, but rather an allowable use of funding. If internet access is provided to students' residences, grantees must have a Technology Lending Agreement that includes or references an existing Responsible Use Policy and that is signed by the parents or guardians and by the student. The Technology Lending Agreement must provide that the internet will be used solely for educational purposes by the student.

Question: So, if we are currently 1-1 with older Chromebooks and want to replace those with touchscreen Chromebooks is that still considered supplant?
Answer: Yes. You may not use TLG funds to replace end-of-life devices.

Question: Would replacing casting technology because it has become unreliable (Chromecast) with a new, different type of casting technology be allowed, or considered replacing EOL equipment?
Answer: This would be considered replacing end-of-life equipment and therefore not an allowable use of funding. You may not use TLG funds to replace end-of-life devices.

Question: Do we need to use Bluebonnet as OER, or can we use Amplify, Eureka, Carnegie and still be in compliance with TLG?
Answer: Instructional materials approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) through the new instructional material review and approval (IMRA) process will be considered high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). Additionally, for the purposes of this grant application, any pilot HQIM materials offered by the agency and listed on the TEA Available Materials page (https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/tea-available-instructional-materials) are considered qualifying materials.

Question: I have been completing the application as a draft but I am unable to go back and change responses.
Answer: Please request a new link to your application by emailing LASO@tea.texas.gov or completing the form located on the LASO 3 webpage: https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/laso-cycle-3

Question: Can you tell us where in the LASO 3 website we can find a preview of the application questions?
Answer: There is a link to the PDF in the top banner, 2nd bullet: LASO 3 webpage: https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/laso-cycle-3

Question: Would PD for Tech be an allowable cost?
Answer: No. professional development and training are not an allowable cost.

Question: Is the curriculum requirement to use OER instructional materials or HQIM instructional materials from this TEA list? https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/tea-available-instructional-materials

Answer: Yes, Instructional materials approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) through the new instructional material review and approval (IMRA) process will be considered high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). Additionally, for the purposes of this grant application, any pilot HQIM materials offered by the agency and listed on the TEA Available Materials page (https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/tea-available-instructional-materials) are considered qualifying materials.

Question: If you currently have a 1 to 1 in your district, would you be eligible for this grant?

Answer: Yes, districts with an existing one-to-one technology or hardware program are eligible for this grant. However, the intent of the funding is meant to supplement and not supplant an existing one-to-one program. In this instance a district would need to use funding for another approved use such as internet connectivity or classroom-based hardware as listed in the grant program guidelines.

Question: Are state-adopted textbooks considered HQIM?
Answer: Instructional materials on the SBOE Current Adoption Bulletin (https://tea4avfaulk.tea.texas.gov/ematevi/EMATREPORTS/RptInst/EM_CURR_ADPN.pdf) that were adopted by the SBOE in past proclamations are not considered HQIM. Instructional materials approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) through the new instructional material review and approval (IMRA) process will be considered high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). Additionally, for the purposes of this grant application, any pilot HQIM materials offered by the agency and listed on the TEA Available Materials page (https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/tea-available-instructional-materials) are considered qualifying materials.

Question: Is it a requirement of the grant to make internet access available to families or is that an option to put in the grant?

Answer: This is not a requirement that internet access be provided, but rather an allowable use of funding. If internet access is provided to students' residences, grantees must have a Technology Lending Agreement that includes or references an existing Responsible Use Policy and that is signed by the parents or guardians and by the student. The Technology Lending Agreement must provide that the internet will be used solely for educational purposes by the student.

Question: Can you apply for just the tech lending portion of the grant, or do you have to apply for the grant as a whole?
Answer: You may just apply for the TLG grant. In the application, you choose which grant(s) you would like to apply for and the LASO 3 grant will populate with only your choices.

General Webinar Questions

Question 1: Are graphing calculators/math calculators an eligible purchase in the TLG grant in LASO 3.0?

Answer 1: No, those are not eligible hardware purchases.