Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

2019–2020 School Action Fund - Planning
RFA# 701-19-107
Posted March 1, 2019

Section A: Eligibility Questions

Question A-1
We have seven focus campuses that qualify for funding. When considering the grant, are all campuses funded through the grant? Do we need to submit an application for each campus, or can we determine which campuses will be served and apply for funding for those specific campuses?

Answer
Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) should submit a School Action Fund (SAF) - Implementation grant application for each eligible campus that will be served. For SAF - Implementation grants, LEAs should determine an action for each eligible campus and submit an application for only the specific campus(es) where an action will take place.

Question A-2
Is it possible for a junior high school that is a priority campus to apply for both School Action – Planning and Implementation grants?

Answer
Implementation grants are designed to implement a school action for the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school year. Planning grants are designed to provide the LEAs with pre-implementation resources in 2019–2020 and matched-technical assistance to support the effective implementation of a school action. LEAs should select either a SAF - Planning grant or Implementation grant per campus depending on its current status in designing and executing a school action. SAF - Planning grantees are eligible for non-competitive continuation funding for 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 dependent on successful completion of grant activities and available funding.

Question A-3
The same eligibility list is attached to the 2019–2020 SAF - Planning grant and the 2019–2021 SAF - Implementation grant. Is this correct?

Answer
Yes. The eligibility list is the same for both SAF - Planning and Implementation grants.
Question A-4
If a campus is included in a 2019–2020 Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC), Cycle 10, Year 2 grant, would this affect eligibility for this grant program?

Answer
No. Campus inclusion in the 21st CCLC, Cycle 10, Year 2 grant program does not make it ineligible to receive funds. However, a campus may not receive funding concurrently from Texas Title I Priority School (TTIPS) Cycle 4 or 5 grant funds, a 2017-2019 School Redesign grant, a School Transformation Fund grant, or a Transformation Zone grant and the School Action Fund grants.

Question A-5
The TEA website provides a list of “eligible” schools on the grant opportunities page. Is the eligible list provided on the page complete?

Answer
Yes. The eligibility list provided on the grant opportunities page is the complete list of eligible campuses.

Question A-6
What criteria did TEA look at in determining which LEAs/campuses were eligible to apply for this grant program?

Answer
Eligible applicants are LEAs with 2018–2019 Comprehensive Schools. Comprehensive Schools are defined in TEA’s ESSA plan and based on a campus’ performance in the Closing the Gaps domain.

Question A-7
Is it possible to request any kind of exemption or exception to this eligibility list and still apply for SAF?

Answer
No.

Question A-8
Are open-enrollment charter campuses allowed to apply for any of the five actions, only "reassigning students," or none of the actions?

Answer
Open-enrollment charter campuses designated for comprehensive support are eligible to apply for the “Reassign” grant option if they meet the other eligibility criteria listed in the program guidelines. Eligible applicants are LEAs with 2018–2019 Comprehensive Schools.
Question A-9
If a LEA has received the School Transformation Fund grant, are they eligible to apply for the School Action Fund grant?

Answer
Eligible applicants are LEAs with 2018–2019 Comprehensive Schools. A campus may not receive funding concurrently from Texas Title I Priority School (TTIPS) Cycle 4 or 5 grant funds, a 2017–2019 School Redesign grant, a School Transformation Fund grant, or a Transformation Zone grant.

Question A-10
Does a LEA need to be served by Title I, Part A in order to be eligible to apply for this grant?

Answer
Yes.

Question A-12
If a LEA has received School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds but no TTIPS funds, is the LEA eligible?

Answer
A campus cannot receive funds concurrently from the same source of dollars. If the campus is no longer receiving SIG funds and meets the other eligibility criteria indicated in the program guidelines, a LEA could apply on behalf of an eligible campus.

Section B: Application-Related Questions

Question B-1
When applying for the grant, are there separate grants based on whether you are applying to plan or implement?

Answer
Yes. Please see the 2019–2020 School Action Fund - Planning grant and the 2019-2021 School Action Fund – Implementation grant on the TEA Grant Opportunities page to make that determination.

Question B-2
When reviewing the SAF - Planning grant and looking at the Statutory Requirements section, it references the following statement: Please refer to the Program Guidelines page 8 and address the six questions. There are no questions listed. Where do I locate the six questions that need to be addressed in the grant?

Answer
Please consult Errata #1 posted with the School Action Fund - Planning and School Action Fund - Implementation grants on the TEA Grants Opportunities website.
Question B-3
In the Create a New School action model, is this to open a new campus that feeds into our eligible campus? Can we apply for more than one campus?

Answer
Yes, the “Create a new school” option is to open a new campus that will either be district-managed or partner-managed. To be eligible, the LEA must guarantee prioritized enrollment at the new campus for students attending or zoned to a 2018–2019 Comprehensive and/or Targeted School.

Section C: Program-Related Questions

Question C-1
Does the term "model authorizing policy" mean the same thing as “charter authorizing policy?”

Answer
No. Model authorizing policy refers to the model district authorizing policy for Subchapter C charter schools that is consistent with legislative and regulatory requirements for partnership school benefits under SB 1882. Districts must adopt this policy to receive benefits for partnerships that include new Texas partners operating Turnaround Schools. The model authorizing policy can be found at https://txpartnerships.org/tools/.

Question C-2
What school actions are options for LEAs to pursue under the School Action Fund?

Answer
The School Action models are located within the Program Guidelines for each grant competition.

Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

There were no questions for this section.

Section E: Funding Questions

There were no questions for this section.

Section F: Competitive Review Questions

Question F-1
Please explain priority points #2.

Answer
Eligible applicants are LEAs with 2018-2019 Comprehensive Schools. Applicants receive additional points if the comprehensive campus identified is also designated as Improvement Required based on the 2017–2018 accountability rating.