2021-2023 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2021

Texas Education Agency®

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation: Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), P.L. 114-95, Section 1003, School Improvement

This LOI application must be submitted via email to **loiapplications@tea.texas.gov.**

The LOI application may be signed with a digital ID or it may be signed by hand. Both forms of signature are acceptable.

TEA must receive the application by **11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2021**.

Grant period from: **July 8, 2021-September 30, 2023**

Pre-award costs permitted from: **Award Date**

Required Attachments

1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)
2. Pathway 1: Pathway 1 Supplemental Pathway Attachment
3. Pathway 2: Pathway 2 Supplemental Pathway Attachment

NOTE: All applicants MUST submit an appropriate Supplemental Pathway Attachment for EACH CAMPUS on behalf of which the applicant is applying.

Amendment Number

Amendment number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds): N/A

Applicant Information

Organization: East Central ISD | CDN: 015911 | Campus: 043 & 044 | ESC: 20 | DUNS: 078488327

Address: 6634 New Sulphurs Springs | City: San Antonio | ZIP: 78148 | Vendor ID: 741562392

Primary Contact: Meredith Rokas | Email: meredith.rokas@ecisd.net | Phone: 210-634-6143

Secondary Contact: Shannon Fuller | Email: shannon.fuller@ecisd.net | Phone: 210-634-6100

Certification and Incorporation

I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representative to obligate this organization in a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions of the LOI application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the LOI application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- ☒ LOI application, guidelines, and instructions
- ☒ General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances
- ☒ Debarment and Suspension Certification
- ☒ Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name: Roland Toscano | Title: Superintendent of Schools

Email: roland.toscano@ecisd.net | Phone: 210-634-6100

Signature: | Date: 4/16/21

RFA # | SAS #

Shared Services Arrangements

☐ Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are NOT permitted for this grant.

Number of Campuses Included in this Application

Pathway 1	0
Pathway 2	2

Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this program. In order to meet the requirements of the program, the applicant must comply with these assurances.

Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

☒ 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this LOI will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.

☒ 2. The applicant provides assurance that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.

☒ 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2021-2023 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines.

☒ 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2021-2023 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.

☒ 5. The applicant provides assurance that they accept and will comply with the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions and Assurances.

☒ 6. The applicant assures that any Electronic Information Resources (EIR) produced as part of this agreement will comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements as specified in 1 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.

☒ 7. Title I served Federally Identified campuses awarded this grant will engage in the Effective Schools Framework (ESF) continuous improvement process and create a plan to be submitted to TEA that addresses the selected pathway aligned to the Essential Actions (EA) from the ESF.

☒ 8. The applicant ensures it will notify the Vetted Improvement Program provider of intent to apply and, if awarded, will work in good faith with the Vetted Improvement Program.

☒ 9. For all pathways, the applicant will budget at least the minimum amount indicated in the Budget Object Code 6200 - Profession and Contracted Services.

Statutory/Program Assurances, cont'd.

☒ 10. The applicant will identify a campus leader, on each awarded campus, who will be responsible for managing the grant project.

☒ 11. The applicant will provide access to TEA and its Vetted Improvement Partners for on-site visits to the district and campus(es) as appropriate.

☒ 12. The applicant will attend and participate in grant orientation meetings, technical assistance meetings, other periodic meetings of grantees, and sharing of best practices through the TEA program office.

☒ 13. The applicant provides assurance it will participate in all grant requirements including but not limited to an ESF Self-Assessment, and ESF Diagnostic, developing a web-based improvement plan, submission of funding and pathway progress reports.

Summary of Program

1. Describe how the LEA will support campus(es) in carrying out school support and improvement activities, including how the LEA will develop a web-based improvement plan for the eligible campuses selected for this grant.

East Central ISD will support both, Legacy Middle School and Heritage Middle School, campuses in carrying out school support and improvement activities by:
-> Allowing operational flexibility through the shifting of resources, processes, and practices in response to critical needs identified.
-> Allowing customized approaches, expedition of resources, and departures from standard practice when the need is substantiated.
-> Eliminating barriers to improvement and empower staff to be responsive in support of school leadership
-> Utilizes internal and external human capital and necessary resources to meet all needs for a successful learning environment
-> Prioritizing teaching and learning by implementing systemic protocols
-> Communicate a clear, focused vision for continuous improvement aligned with collaborative efforts for student success
-> Continue evolving its web-based improvement plan into comprehensive, district aligned instrument by:
    -> building efficacy in their diverse, representative teams with assigned roles and responsibilities
    -> timely reviewing data sources
    -> identifying high priority areas
    -> conducting an impacting root cause analysis
    -> developing goals and strategies for implementation
    -> creating implementation activities for goals

Furthermore, East Central and campus-based project leaders will support and ensure all activities remain in alignment to campus TIPs and ESF Self-Assessment(s) as well as each campus's web-based improvement plan. ECISD has already created and transitioned to a completely, web-based improvement plan template system aligned to the ESF framework for which also encompasses an external and internal scorecard, and is driven by priorities of needs derived from a comprehensive needs assessment; Plans and scorecards are reviewed quarterly by each campus's Continuous Growth and Instructional Leadership Team. Next steps are even documented for each performance measure and in a manner to where principals are required to report and provide evidence to the Superintendent, Chief Instructional Officer, Director of Transformation & Assessment and Executive Director of Student & Community Engagement. The district's Chief Instructional Officer provides quarterly status checks to the school board, too.

2. Describe how the LEA will monitor schools receiving the ESF-Focused Support Grant, including how the LEA will: (a) Monitor a web-based improvement plans upon submission and during implementation, and (b) Implement additional action following unsuccessful implementation of such plan after the first year of the grant cycle.

East Central will monitor its Pathway 2 participating schools, Legacy & Heritage, in the following ways to ensure compliance with the web-based improvement plan:
-> Quarterly check-ins for Formative Reviews
-> Principal supervision and coaching
-> Training and professional development participation
-> Campus visits/observation focused on targeted
-> Direct coaching
-> Implementation and support of VIP practices
-> On-site observation visits and feedback
If a campus is unsuccessful in the implementation of its plan as design in the first year of the grant cycle, then East Central ISD and the Continuous Growth team of the school in state of concern will:
-> Review additional sources of data
-> Conduct a more intensified root cause analysis
-> Develop further strategies for corrective implementation
-> Monitor implementation of any new corrective action plans and project strategies
-> Pivot or expand upon coordinated fiscal obligations in the most timely, compliant manner possible.

Each campus's external and internal scorecard works as additional transparent outward looking instruments and their quarterly schedule reviews with signaling provides the crucial visual needed for timely, direct adjustments to be pursued. District administrators, including the Director of Federal Program, are then able to expand upon and incorporate the information into monthly dialogue with campus leaders and acquire additional artifacts where needed. Thus, this brings further support and clarity around targets, expectations, growth, and how campus practices and efforts go beyond compliance.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, Performance and Evaluation

1. Describe how the LEA will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility to the awarded campus, that enables full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web-based Improvement Plan.

East Central ISD and its participating campuses will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility to the awarded campus, that enables full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web based Improvement Plan by:

-> Setting a priority to change ineffective practices and processes that hinder student success
-> Putting in place explicit and rigorous standards for student learning
-> Responding and/or adjusting goals when they are not met in a timely manner
-> Interacting with all stakeholders to plan and implement improvement initiatives
-> Continuously review systemic, district-wide practices
-> Addressing and modifying support based on needs and personnel

To ensure desired impact and growth measures of grant project are met, East Central 's district and campus leaders as well as all invested stakeholders like Region 20, E3 Alliance, staff, parents, and students realize how timely monitoring, effective communication, adhering to program time-lines, following establish frameworks, and remaining attentive to defined evaluative tools and performance measures are crucial, especially when utilizing a cascading,outward facing web-based improvement plan process. Thus, these efforts allow stakeholders to have equal access and ownership to assist in reducing any foreseen and unforeseen barriers, contributing a knowledgeable voice and actively participating in the decision making process.

Budget Narrative

1. Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

East Central ISD's proposed grant budget for its Legacy and Heritage support was collectively and collaboratively developed by instructional leaders within the school district to meet the prioritized needs of students and staff as identified during a comprehensive needs assessment process. To increase program effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and reduce fragmentation of instructional programs, the district will coordinate these supplemental funds with federal (TI, TII, TIII, TIV), state (SCE, IMA, Special Education, Dyslexia), and local funds to provide appropriate programs, instruction, and services to all students while maximizing the impact of available resources.

The primary expenditure for the proposed budget will be within the 6200 object code for contracted services and provide both its middle schools to work in strategic partnership with ESC, Region 20's E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas team towards improvement in focus areas of Leadership, Culture and Effective Instruction. Principal supervisors, principals, campus leaders and instructional staff will engage with RAISEup Texas facilitators, in activities such as, but not limited to coaching sessions, professional learning, transformational work, connecting to the Effective Schools Framework, enhancing strategic plans, instructional models, the utilization of data to drive best practices, the utilization of a multi-tiered system of support/ response for student attendance/engagement/academic performance, and personalized pathways for supporting instructional staff through the cycles of observation, feedback, coaching and continuous improvement.

To build capacity and ensure deeper implementation and improvement, the budget will also include substitute costs. East Central ISD contracts with an outside agency to provide high-quality substitute and this additional allocated funding within 6200 object code will assist in covering classroom instruction as teachers attend professional learning opportunities at the home campus with E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas will be built within 6200 object code, too.

E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas framework also includes recommended supplies/materials (object 6300) to support the work. This will include, but are not limited to: instructional manipulative, technology hardware/software, supplemental instructional materials, books for professional development, student texts, supplies to enhance culture/climate, etc.

Furthermore, East Central' ISD's Legacy and Heritage Middle Schools are Title I, part A school-wide served campuses and the only two middle schools of the district. The two-year grant will allow the district to fiscally plan for these awarded schools and ensure the remaining Title I, part A school-wide schools of the district are able to receive similar support through its ESSA reservation without supplanting. The district will also be able to strategically plan for future year's budgets and make priority decisions about spending to ensure it sustains the efforts and alignment to the district's cascading goal of providing an equitable, exceptional educational experience for all students and staff.

Budget Narrative, cont'd.

2. Describe how the LEA will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this grant.

The proposed 2021-2022 Title I, 1003 ESF - Focused Support Grant budget was collectively and collaboratively developed by instructional leaders within East Central ISD and designed in a manner to meet the prioritized needs of both Legacy Middle School and Heritage Middle School stakeholders as identified during a comprehensive needs assessment process. To increase program effectiveness, eliminate duplication, and reduce fragmentation of instructional programs, the district will coordinate these supplemental funds with federal (TI, TII, TIII, TIV), state (SCE, IMA, Sp. Ed, Dyslexia), and local funds to provide appropriate programs, instruction, and services to all students while maximizing the impact of available resources. Initial planning of schedules, time, available resources will all be taken into consideration prior to the full implementation of services and goods being procured.

East Central ISD's School Board and Superintendent of School are fully committed to ensuring that all budget stewards, including those related to said Focused Support Grant project, continually align, collaborate and coordinate funding streams in the most effective manner for all stakeholders to optimally benefit. This practice is most visibly evident within the district's cascading, web-based improvement plans. Every district and campus level plan has a supplemental budgets worksheet exemplifying alignment to their unique priorities, goals, or measures, including staff. These programs and intentions supported by various supplemental funding streams are continually reviewed at all levels within the organization for compliance as well as further documented with the District Improvement Plan's comprehensive, coordinate school funding document. It is also understood at the conclusion of each year and by statute of law, any coordinated like programs, projects, and/or initiatives supported with supplemental fund sources are evaluated for effectiveness and level of impact to include but not limited to utilizing disaggregated data. Thus, East Central ISD's district and campus leaders will attest this grant program will be equally managed according to the same standards, policies, procedures, and practices, including abiding by any additional obligations set for by the 2021-2022 Title I, 1003 ESF - Focused Support Grant.

Equitable Access and Participation

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this program.

- (●) The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this program.
- ( ) Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

Group	Barrier

Appendix I: Amendment Description and Purpose (leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding)

An amendment must be submitted when the program plan or budget is altered for the reasons described in the "When to Amend the Application" document posted on the Administering a Grant page. The following are required to be submitted for an amendment: (1) Page 1 of the application with updated contact information and current authorized official's signature and date, (2) Appendix I with changes identified and described, (3) all updated sections of the application or budget affected by the changes identified below, and, if applicable, (4) Amended Budget Request. Amendment Instructions with more details can be found on the last tab of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page

Amended Section	Reason for Amendment