



2021-2022 School Action Fund- Planning
COMPETITIVE GRANT Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, May 13, 2021

NOGA ID

Authorizing Legislation **ESEA of 1965 as amended by ESSA, Title I, Part A, Section 1003**

TEA will only accept grant application documents by email, including competitive grant applications and amendments. Submit grant applications and amendments as follows:

Competitive grant applications and amendments to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov

Application stamp-in date and time

Grant period from **August 12, 2021 – July 31, 2022**

Pre-award costs are not permitted.

Required Attachments

Applicants must submit the TEA-supplied attachment that corresponds to their selected school action. See pg. 33 of the Program Guidelines.

Amendment Number

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

Applicant Information

Organization CDN Vendor ID ESC DUNS
 Address City ZIP Phone
 Primary Contact Email Phone
 Secondary Contact Email Phone

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 grant application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the grant application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- Grant application, guidelines, and instructions
- General Provisions and Assurances
- Application-specific Provisions and Assurances
- Debarment and Suspension Certification
- Lobbying Certification
- NCLB Provisions and Assurances requirements

Authorized Official Name Title

Email Phone

Signature Date

Grant Writer Name Signature Date

Grant writer is an employee of the applicant organization. Grant writer is **not** an employee of the applicant organization.

Shared Services Arrangements

X SSAs are **not permitted** for this grant.

Identify/Address Needs

List up to three quantifiable needs, as identified in your needs assessment, that these program funds will address. Describe your plan for addressing each need.

Quantifiable Need	Plan for Addressing Need
Como Montessori has struggled to achieve at Fort Worth ISD's high standards. The campus received 2018-19 accountability ratings of F overall, and in each domain, with a score of 46 out of 100 on closing the gaps.	Como Montessori students will be assigned to higher performing campuses, including Daggett Montessori (B-rated, with an A in closing the gaps), Riverside Applied Learning (B-rated), and Applied Learning Academy (B-rated)
Como Montessori has decreased in enrollment, losing 29% of its student population since 2015-16. This smaller student population, especially when spread across nine grade levels, limits student opportunities.	Como Montessori students will be reassigned to campuses with more robust offerings and opportunities.
Recruiting, training, and retaining certified Montessori teachers is a significant hurdle. Almost half of the campus faculty have less than five years of experience in teaching.	By consolidating our Montessori programs into high-performing schools, we are establishing better conditions for attracting, developing, and retaining Montessori teachers in FWISD.

SMART Goal

Describe the summative SMART goal you have identified for this program (a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely), either related to student outcome or consistent with the purpose of the grant.

By July 1, 2022, at least 80% of Como Montessori students will be registered to attend an A or B rated school for SY22-23.

Measurable Progress

Identify the benchmarks that you will use at the end of the first three grant quarters to measure progress toward meeting the process and implementation goals defined for the grant. See pg. 18 of the Program Guidelines for detailed instructions for identifying benchmarks.

First-Quarter Benchmark

Develop communication plan for school action planning and implementation.
Establish school selection and enrollment process for student reassignment, including identification of target schools for student placement.

Measurable Progress (Cont.)

Second-Quarter Benchmark

Develop and implement a strategy for supporting families with decision making support for student enrollment / reassignment.
District identifies resources for receiving campuses to support student transition and success.
District superintendent and board approves plans and policies for student reassignment process.
Establish tracking system for monitoring Como Montessori student enrollment in FWISD schools in order to assess progress against our SMART goal of 80% enrollment in A and B campuses.

Third-Quarter Benchmark

Determine future use for facility of the closing campus.
Meet eligibility requirements for continuation grant funding and submit continuation grant application.
Complete campus closure and student transition activities established in reassignment implementation plan.

Project Evaluation and Modification

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks do not show progress towards meeting your summative SMART goal, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

Throughout the Como Montessori reassign process, Fort Worth ISD will evaluate progress toward benchmarks quarterly to determine when and how to adjust the plan. The district will monitor data more closely during the lottery window to ensure that students are able to select and receive assignments at higher-performing campuses. After the reassignment process, the district will continue to communicate with families to collect feedback to inform future reassignment processes. We intend to use the School Action Fund Planning FIT tool to track quarterly progress toward key benchmarks, and will conduct robust analysis in Fall 2023 to report out the new campus assignments of the students previously attending Como Montessori.

Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee 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 grant 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 Statutory Requirements, TEA Program Requirements, and Performance Measures, as noted in the 2021–2022 School Action Fund- Planning Program Guidelines, and shall provide the Texas Education Agency, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the grant program.
- 4. The applicant will work in good faith with the TEA vetted and matched school action technical assistance provider and agency-provided technical assistance.
- 5. For all actions, the applicant will budget at least the amount indicated in budget guidance as "Matched School Action Technical Assistance Provider" on schedule 6200 (part 2 of the application) and any other action specific technical assistance. Both amounts will be subtracted from the total grant award and used by TEA and ESC 13 to establish a contract with the matched provider.
- 6. The applicant will identify a project manager for this grant. The applicant may use other funds for this position.
- 7. Applicants pursuing a partnership-managed model must perform a financial spending analysis in accordance with TEA requirements.
- 8. The applicant assures all fidelity of implementation revisions with the matched school action technical assistance provider will be completed on or before October 15, 2021.
- 9. The applicant will provide access to TEA and contractors for on-site visits to the district and campus.
- 10. 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.
- 11. The applicant's board must commit to Lone Star Governance (LSG) training and coaching.
- 12. The applicant assures partners operating campuses under the partner-managed option will commit to TEA-identified board training.
- 13. The applicant assures Pre-K "New Schools" will designate a feeder Comprehensive or Targeted campus by April 1, 2022.
- 14. The applicant assures enrollment at a new school will prioritize students attending or zoned to a 2018-2019 Comprehensive and/or Targeted School (2019 rating).
- 15. For applicants selecting the partner-managed model, the ISD must commit to the adoption of TEA's model authorizing policy and participate in the Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy.

Statutory Requirements

1. Describe how the ISD will carry out its school support and improvement activities, including how the ISD will develop a school improvement plan for the eligible campuses selected for this grant.

Fort Worth ISD is committed to serving the students at Como Montessori during the planning year in accordance with the campus’s approved Targeted Improvement Plan. Furthermore, the campus principal and leadership team will participate in a Comprehensive Needs Assessment aligned with the ESF self-diagnostic tool in Fall 2021 in order to reaffirm priority ESF essential actions for the school year. The school improvement plan will also emphasize family engagement throughout the school year in order to strengthen connections that will help inform and guide family decisions for student reassignment.

In addition, each campus receiving at least 50 Como Montessori students will be required to submit to the district a campus-level plan for welcoming, integrating, and supporting Como Montessori students into their respective school communities, including through summer acceleration opportunities.

2. Describe how the ISD will monitor schools receiving the School Action Fund-Planning Grant, including how the ISD will: (a) Monitor school improvement plans upon submission and implementation, and (b) Implement additional action following unsuccessful implementation of such plan after a number of years determined by the district.

Como Montessori will be officially closed at the end of the 2021-22 school year, with students transitioning to A and B rated campuses. At the beginning of the year, the campus principal and leadership team will participate in a Comprehensive Needs Assessment aligned with the ESF self-diagnostic tool in order to reaffirm priority ESF essential actions for the school year. Throughout the year, Fort Worth ISD will use NWEA MAP as a student diagnostic and progress monitoring assessment to evaluate student needs and inform summer and extended time planning. At least quarterly, the district will continue to monitor the campus’s targeted improvement plan to ensure strong implementation of improvement strategies and regular review of leading indicator and benchmark data throughout the year.

3. Describe how the ISD will use a rigorous review process to recruit, screen, select, and evaluate any external organizations with whom the ISD will work with to support the campus(es) selected for this grant.

Fort Worth ISD does not plan to work with any external organizations beyond the matched TA provider for the grant. If FWISD determines that additional technical assistance support is required to meet our reassignment goal of at least 80% of students in A and B campuses, we will work with school leadership, staff, and families to prioritize those supports.

Statutory Requirements (Cont'd)

4. Describe how the ISD will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this subsection.

Fort Worth ISD will align federal, state, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with these funds. District Leadership develops a District-wide Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) annually by reviewing program evaluations, implementation outcomes, and prior budgets to determine the District Improvement Plan (DIP) for targeted priority initiatives. Allocations to campuses are aligned to this plan, and include funds generated through special grants. We intend to braid available funding to maximize impact for students and sustainability of the programs funded through the grant.

By combining Title funds, School Action Fund planning funds, local campus budget funds, and additional funds through the federal American Rescue Plan, Fort Worth ISD will both provide meaningful customized support to students in their last year at Como Montessori AND invest in their receiving campuses to be ready to deliver them a high-quality educational experience from day one.

5. Describe how the ISD will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility that enables full and effective implementation of the school action.

This action will require a change in practice for communication and capacity planning related to programs of choice and transfer processes. Fort Worth ISD’s current enrollment and lottery policies allow for the Superintendent to complete the reassignment process without any change in policy, and the grant project manager will work closely with the district’s legal counsel to confirm the allowability and parameters for execution of the school action. Furthermore, the grant project manager will be responsible for monitoring and facilitating the adjustment of any lottery and transfer practices to prioritize enrollment of Como Montessori students into A and B rated campuses throughout the district. In addition, the grant project manager will work with the enrollment, technology, and community engagement departments to identify and address any technological (e.g., lottery algorithms) or communication (e.g., language barriers) obstacles during the school action planning process.

6. Describe how the selected school action model will incorporate one or more evidence-based strategies during the implementation phase.

Each Como Montessori student will be assessed using an evidence-based student diagnostic assessment, the NWEA MAP assessment. This assessment data will inform the development and delivery of expanded student supports aligned to each student’s needs, delivered both during the school year and over the summer. Expanded supports could include high-dosage tutoring during school hours and during extended learning time offerings (after school, on Saturdays, and over the summer). During Summer 2021, Fort Worth ISD plans to offer summer school at the Como Montessori site. During Summer 2022, summer school could take place at Como Montessori or, depending on transition timelines and facilities needs, could be conducted in partnership with the Leadership Academy Network at Como Elementary in the same neighborhood. Applied Learning Academy (ALA), Riverside Applied Learning Center, and Daggett Montessori will all receive tailored supports to enable a smooth transition for reassigned students. Each campus will receive five key supports (see attachment application for more details on supports).

Program Requirements

1. Identify one of the following eligible school action models:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Restart a struggling school as an ACE campus | <input type="radio"/> Create a new school as a partner-managed campus |
| <input type="radio"/> Restart a struggling school as a partner-managed campus | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Reassign students from a struggling school to higher performing schools |
| <input type="radio"/> Create a new school as a district-managed campus | <input type="radio"/> Redesign a campus with a district-designed blended learning model |
| <input type="radio"/> Create a new school as a School Empowerment Network campus | <input type="radio"/> Redesign a rural campus with a P-20 system model |

2(a). Describe the evaluation process and criteria utilized for selecting the school action model for the specific campus to be supported with this grant.

As part of Fort Worth ISD’s rigorous annual quality seats analysis, the district identified Como Montessori as a priority for a bold school action. While the campus was initially considered for potential partnership actions, the district ultimately decided upon the reassign action based on the data from the campus, declining enrollment, lack of fidelity to the Montessori model, and infeasibility of a slow-grow restart for a K-8 campus. Because the district has other Montessori and Applied Learning campuses with A and B ratings that could serve these students, the reassign action will continue to deliver the school model these students have chosen, but at a much higher quality and level of fidelity. Further, this action will simultaneously advance FWISD’s commitment to a diverse student population in the district’s schools of choice.

2(b). Describe how the school action aligns with the ISD’s overall strategy for support and intervention in low-performing schools and/or the ISD’s strategy for expanding high-quality school choices for students and families.

Fort Worth ISD has set a North Star goal to increase the number of high-quality seats by 8,000 and decrease the number of seats in D and F rated campuses by 11,000 by 2024. In line with this priority and in accordance with the district’s System of Great Schools plan, Fort Worth ISD plans to reassign students from Como Montessori to higher-performing schools of choice. These reassignments will expand the number of seats in high-quality schools while continuing to follow through on the district’s commitment of Montessori and Applied Learning educational choices for families. These high-performing campuses will be expanding to meet the demand from Como Montessori by adding classrooms and reconfiguring grade levels to serve even more students. In support of the reassignment plan at Como Montessori, FWISD will develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan to build community understanding and support for the school action and publicly reinforce FWISD’s commitment to high-quality school choices.

Program Requirements (Cont'd)

2(c). Describe how senior district leaders were involved in the decision to select the school action for the campus(es), and to apply for this School Action Fund Planning Grant.

The School Action Fund Planning process is led by cabinet member and Chief Innovation Officer David Saenz. Dr. Saenz has regularly engaged the Superintendent and senior district leaders in a cycle of data analysis and review and decision-making to continuously increase the number of high performing seats available to Fort Worth ISD students. Como Montessori was specifically discussed in cabinet meetings during Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring 2021, first as a potential target for a partnership action, but then ultimately as a priority for a reassign action. Given the overall enrollment trends in the district and the latest demand data from the program of choice lottery, the senior leadership team and Superintendent have agreed to move forward with the planning grant to reassign Como Montessori students to other higher-performing campuses.

2(d). Describe how the district has worked or will work with members of the school community to convey plans and solicit input into the school action planning process.

The district will engage the Como Montessori community throughout the planning process. Through focus groups, surveys, and town hall meetings, the district is committed to listening to the needs and desires of the Como Montessori community and ensuring that every student at the school is reassigned to a high-quality, best-fit option. This engagement will inform the assignment process to new schools, the spring/summer programming supports, and the welcome experience Como Montessori students receive at their new campuses. The transition will be public during calendar year 2021 so the lottery process for seats will be transparent and fair throughout the district, taking these reassignments into account as top priority.

Program Requirements (Cont'd)

2(e). Identify the ISD staff member who will manage the implementation grant. List the qualifications of the identified staff member.

David Saenz, Chief Innovation Officer, will manage the grant implementation. Dr. Saenz leads Fort Worth ISD's Office of Innovation and serves as a member of the district's cabinet. Dr. Saenz is an experienced school administrator with a successful history of working in Title 1 districts. Educational Leadership professional skilled in Instructional Design, School Leadership, and Program Design. He has degrees from the University of Texas- Austin and The University of North Texas in Education and has completed the Texas Authorizing Leadership Academy. He is an active participant in the System of Great Schools and has led Fort Worth ISD to receive 100% green and blue ratings across the SGS roadmap levers.

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 grant.

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

Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>

PNP Equitable Services

PNP Equitable Services **does not apply** to this grant.

Request for Grant Funds

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA. See Program Guidelines, pages 21-27, for detailed instructions on use of grant funds.

PAYROLL COSTS (6100)

BUDGET

Personnel cost for extended learning and/or tutoring (spring, summer)	\$85,000
Innovation office staffing; Student reassignment coordinator	\$30,000
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

PROFESSIONAL AND CONTRACTED SERVICES (6200)

Matched Technical Assistance partner	\$62,500
Enrollment system vendor	\$20,000
Communications support partner & Lone Star Governance Training	\$15,000

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS (6300)

Supplies and Materials for for extended learning and/or tutoring	\$15,000
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

OTHER OPERATING COSTS (6400)

Community engagement events	\$5,000
Funding for receiving schools to conduct welcome activities	\$15,000
Transportation to TEA events and other site visits	\$2,500

CAPITAL OUTLAY (6600)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST

Appendix I: Negotiation and Amendments (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 of the TEA website and may be emailed to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov Include all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed copy of page 1 of the application. More detailed amendment instructions can be found on the last page of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page

Negotiated/Amended Section

For amendments: Choose the section you wish to amend from the drop down menu.

Negotiated Change/Amendment

For amendments: Describe the changes you are making and the reason for them. Always work with the most recent negotiated or amended application. If you are requesting a revised budget, please include the budget attachments with your amendment.

FOR TEA USE ONLY
 Changes confirmed with _____ on this date _____
 Via phone/fax/email by TEA staff person _____

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