



SI Grant Webinar FAQ – September 8, 2020

eGrants System

Is this application in the older eGrants format (can only access through IE) or is it in the eGrants format?

The application in the eGrants system is still in the older “Legacy” grants framework and some grant application features work best in Internet Explorer.

To clarify--the 2020-21 application is not on e-grants yet, correct?

The Grants Administration team posted the 2020-2021 School Improvement Grant at 3:30 p.m. on September 8, 2020. You can find all grant information on the TEA Grant Opportunities page and in eGrants.

Grant Application Questions

Are you able to provide an example of barriers?

The LEA can identify barriers or assure that no barriers exist. Barriers could include such things as: transportation to/from afterschool tutorials, language and cultural barriers with students and parents, absenteeism/truancy, high mobility rates for students and teachers, support from parents, learning disabilities, and general access to the essential actions from the ESF.

Should the PS3010 differ greatly from the prior year or is it appropriate to continue with supports identified and used in 2019-20?

The PS3010 should match the essential actions the district is supporting during the 20-21 school year on its Title 1 served, Comprehensive Support and Improvement campuses or Title 1 served campuses within one level of a Comprehensive campus feeder pattern.

Where would stipends be listed?

The dollar amount budgeted for stipends should be included in Part 2 of the BS6004 Program Budget Summary and support. In Part 4, Substitute, Extra Duty Benefits, the LEA will check line 2 “Extra-Duty/Beyond Normal Work Hours” should be checked.



Can the Part 4 Schoolwide checkmark be used instead of entering the number of positions?

If none of the positions are funded by Object Code 8911 of the SC5000, then the LEA may check the "School Wide Personnel" in Part 4 of the BS6004.

Can you repeat what you said about paying substitutes at a public school?

Substitute pay for Private School employees is unallowable for this grant.

If our subs are a contracted service, do we still need to select Substitutes to be deemed an applicable cost?

The LEA may budget contracted service substitutes in 6200. All contractors must follow the Fingerprinting Requirement.

For 6200 what about a person who works with our students as a contractor?

That is an allowable cost that does not require specific approval and can be budgeted in the 6200-budget code. All contractors must follow the Fingerprinting Requirement.

Where do ESC costs go on the application?

Any support the ESC will provide will be budgeted in the budget object code with which it aligns.

ESC Costs are usually listed under 6239, which is line 1??

The unusual and rarely used object codes are 6219/6269/6291 - Professional and Contracted Services. 6219 - Professional Services are limited to the following specific professions: Architecture, Land Surveying, Medicine, Optometry, Professional Engineering, Real estate appraising, Professional Nursing, Accounting. 6269 - Contracted Services are rental or lease of buildings, space in buildings, or land. 6291 - Consulting services refer to the practice of helping districts improve performance through analysis of existing problems and development of future plans. These object codes do not include training, professional development or similar education activities or services contracted by an ESC.

6239 is an appropriate and acceptable place to budget professional and contracted ESC services. This budget object code will not require specific approval. This line item will be updated on the 2021-2022 SI Grant application to provide better clarity. ESC services can include but is not limited to a Texas Instructional Leadership cohort, instructional coaching, Vetted Improvement Programs, technical assistance, etc.



Please repeat who the authorized official can be.

The authorized official must be the Superintendent of a public-school district, or the Chief Operating Officer for an open enrollment charter school. The LEA may choose to have a designee certify and submit with the understanding the Superintendent or Chief Operating Officer is aware of their commitment to the certifications.

So comprehensive no matter of budget? (This question is in reference to the check boxes on the PS3010 Part 3: Strategies to Support Comprehensive Schools.)

The LEA will check boxes that align with the Essential Actions being prioritized by the district on the comprehensive campus(es) indicating if services will be provided by the ESC, a Vetted Improvement Program or if the LEA will address the prioritized Essential Actions at the campus or district level.

Carryover

So 19-20 funds will carry over? Until Sept. 2021? After application of 20-21?

The 2019-2020 School Improvement Grant funds will carry over to the 20-21 SIG unless the funds were already carried over from the 2018-2019 SIG. This would give the carryover a life until the end of the 2020-2021 SIG, which would be September 2021.

For carryover, will districts need to keep funds separate from the 19-20 grant vs the 20-21 grant OR can they be combined in same account budget lines?

The carryover of 2019-2020 funds will be move at the LEA level. The LEA has the discretion to allocate those funds to meet the needs of the campuses. There will not be a need to keep 2019-2020 carry over funds separate from new allocation funds for 2020-2021.

When will the 19-20 carryover be released to LEAs?

We are expecting a November/December timeframe. The 2019-2020 School Improvement Grant closes on September 30, 2020. The Grants Administration team will need time to de-obligate the funds and move them into the 2020-2021 School Improvement Grant. This normally takes 6-8 weeks.

Do we have to allocate the amounts leftover based on campus leftover amounts?

The carryover of 2019-2020 funds will be moved at the LEA level. The LEA has the discretion to allocate those funds to meet the needs of Comprehensive Support and Improvement campuses or a Title I served campus within one level of the direct feeder pattern of the Comprehensive campus.



So TTIPS campuses will have \$0 for Carry over...correct?

TTIPS Cycle 4 and Cycle 5 campuses that were previously ineligible for the School Improvement Grant will have a carryover amount for the 2020-2021 Title I, 1003 School Improvement Grant of \$0. However, the SI Grant is a district level grant. If the LEA had other campuses receiving the SI Grant the LEA could have carry over from the 2019-2020 grant.

LEA Reserve

What if you only have 1 campus eligible for SIG?

The LEA may still use the 50% in the LEA reserve to support students entering or exiting the Comprehensive Support and Improvement campus as long as the campus receiving support is a Title I served campus within one level of the direct feeder pattern of the Comprehensive campus.

Explain when you would use the LEA Reserve

The LEA may use the LEA reserve to support students entering or exiting the Comprehensive Support and Improvement campus for Title I served schools within one level of the direct feeder pattern of the Comprehensive Campus. An example of this would be if the grant currently supports an Elementary campus and the district would like to continue support for these students then it may allocate up to 50% of funds for the Middle School, assuming it is Title 1 served and within one level of the direct feeder pattern of the elementary campus.

Does middle school have to be a Title I campus to be served? (This question was in reference to the answer given in the question directly above)

2020-2021 School Improvement Grant funds may only be used at Title 1 served campuses.

Our Middle School is the targeted campus. All campuses are Title I schoolwide. Can we provide support for both the High School and Elementary through LEA reserve?

If the Middle School is identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement, then the LEA may reserve funds to support both the Title I served High School and Title I served Elementary school in the direct feeder pattern of the Middle School. Please note that only campuses identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement are eligible for an entitlement for this grant. Targeted Support and Improvement campuses are not eligible for an initial entitlement.



What if campus is an alternative that serves district wide?

This situation will be addressed on an individual basis. If your LEA has an alternative campus receiving an entitlement and is considering using the LEA reserve funds to support other high schools please reach out to Alice Keller, alice.keller@tea.texas.gov for guidance.

Allowable Costs

Is a contract to help with the application allowable as a grant expenditure?

Specific costs outlined as "Grant Writing" are not allowable as a contracted service in the SI Grant similar to other Federal grants.

It is allowable for the LEA to budget costs for services provided by the ESC including Technical Assistance.

What was the limit on 6100 Payroll?

The LEA may budget up to 60% of the total SI Grant award to 6100-Payroll.

What percentage can support feeder pattern?

The LEA may reserve up to 50% of total its School Improvement Grant award to support Title I served schools within one level of the direct feeder pattern of the Comprehensive Support and Improvement campus(es).

Just verifying - can LEAs use SIG to pay for required Reading Academies? Could you talk about supplement, not supplant?

Clarification on our original response to this question, in order for Reading Academies to be an allowable activity to the SI Grant, the LEA would need to identify them in the Campus Needs Assessment (CAN) and included in the Campus Improvement Plan, as well as meet the other items on the [Use of Funds](#) list.

The SNS requirement for Title I, Part A and for the 1003 School Improvement program is met by virtue of the LEA having either a valid methodology for distributing its state and local funds to campuses (without regard to their Title I status), or qualifying for a statement of exemption. In both cases, once that is accomplished, the SNS requirement for those programs is met. This is different from the way the programs with the traditional SNS operate. Please note it is the responsibility of the LEA to maintain appropriate documentation of methodology in the event of an audit.



What are examples of allowable COVID-19 related expenditures?

Allowable costs related to COVID-19 expenditures can include:

- costs associated with building capacity to deploy curriculum, curricular resources and assessments aligned to TEKS for Instructional Continuity and/or at-home schools.
- costs associated with professional development in developing effective virtual learning instruction, as well as costs associated with providing monitoring and support to teachers, students, and parents.
- costs associated with technical assistance provided by a Regional Education Service Center.

Can we use SIG for the matching requirement of the Operation Connectivity program?

The LEA may use federal grant funds to pay its part of the local match requirement of the Operation Connectivity Program. These costs must be reasonable and necessary. The LEA must also meet the SNS requirement for Title I, Part A and for the 1003 School Improvement program by having either a valid methodology for distributing its state and local funds to campuses (without regard to their Title I status), or qualifying for a statement of exemption. In both cases, once that is accomplished, the SNS requirement for those programs is met.

Can funds be used for plexiglass dividers if the district does not provide them.

Plexiglass dividers are considered furniture and that is an unallowable cost on the SI grant.

Entitlement and Eligibility

Is there a place to see our allotment now?

The 2020-2021 SIG planning amounts can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/grants/grants-administration/applying-for-a-grant/entitlements>. You can also access this information through the School Improvement at <https://tea.texas.gov/student-assessment/monitoring-and-interventions/school-improvement/lea-grants>.

Is the amount each school in the district is receiving already posted by TEA?

See answer to the question directly above.



Just to be clear, if our district is not listed on the allotment document, we do not qualify for this grant?

LEAs that qualify for the 2020-2021 Title I, 1003 School Improvement Grant will be found on the Entitlements and Planning document found [here](#).

If we currently have the 19-21 SAF grant are we still eligible for the SIG?

Campuses receiving a School Action Fund **Implementation** grant, or the School Action Fund **Continuation** grant are not eligible to receive additional funding through the School Improvement Grant. However, if the campus is receiving the School Action Fund **planning** grant then that campus would still be eligible for the School Improvement Grant.

Campus Allocation Document

Are the campuses listed only the Comp campuses? Or do they include any other campuses where funds are used? (Feeder pattern)

On the Campus Allocation Document, in the Funding Campus Allocation Tab, the LEA will only list campuses that have an entitlement amount from the SI Grant. On the LEA Reserve tab, the LEA will list any Title I served campuses within one level of the direct feeder pattern that will be supported through the grant.

Is the Campus allocation document in eGrants as well?

The Campus Allocation Document is located on the SI Grants page [here](#).

Does this form or anything else with the grant need to be added into ISAM?

The only grant related form to be submitted in ISAM will be the Comprehensive Funding Report due March 5, 2021.

What was the due date again to email you the campus budget worksheets?

The Campus Allocation Document is due via email to alice.keller@tea.texas.gov with the subject line "<District Name> SIG Campus Allocation Document" by October 23rd. If the LEA has not completed the grant application by October 23rd it is due within one week of submitting the grant application.



General Questions

Schools qualify based on 18/19 data?

Schools Identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement in the 2019 accountability ratings maintained the Comprehensive Support and Improvement label in the 2020 accountability ratings due to the interruption of COVID 19 in the 2019-2020 school year.

Could we get a copy of the presentation ppt?

A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation as well as a the Sample Application will be posted to the [SI Grants Website](#).