Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant

June 2022
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Instructional Materials & Implementation
Office of School Programs
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Agenda

Overview of the Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant

Grant Requirements and Assurances

How to learn more and apply!

Resources and where to find more information
Webinar Logistics

- Mute yourself if not speaking
- Use the chat to ask questions as we go, we will reserve time at the end to address them
- Jot down longer questions to submit via our question form below
Overview: Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant
The Math and Literacy Framework Grant, a component of the broader Strong Foundations Grant Program, provides foundational planning supports aligned to research and the TEKS to help districts build the “why” behind instructional changes for all stakeholders.

In Statute

TEC Sec. 29.0881. (a) The commissioner shall establish and administer a strong foundations grant program for campuses or a program at a campus serving students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade five to implement a rigorous school approach that combines high-quality instruction, materials, and support structures.
The broader Strong Foundations Grant will support LEAs in key supports to get 3rd grade students reading on grade-level

Support Type:

- **Foundational District Planning Supports**
- **Critical Implementation Supports**
- **Aligned Resource Subsidies**

Depending on the level of funds available, supports provided directly to districts can include:

- **Technical assistance to district leadership teams on literacy & math cognitive research & instructional materials best practices, extended school year scheduling, early childhood systems, and instructional leadership strategic planning**

- **Summer and year-long job-embedded training for district and school administrators, coaches and teachers aligned to evidence-based literacy & math curricular resources**

- **Additional funding for districts to subsidize the costs they may incur on resources aligned to these instructional changes, including printed material costs & digital material licensing fees, educator stipends, and parent engagement stipends.**

Grant is one part of larger bundle
We’ve heard from school systems the importance an instructional framework in...

...building buy-in across the school system
We have made lots of changes to respond to the COVID learning loss. Teachers and leaders are tired, and we can’t push one more thing on them without their buy-in and support. When we stepped back and focused on the research, they were able to understand the WHY behind the changes we were piloting.

...revisiting old framework with the lens of the new landscape
[Our district's literacy framework] was a 162-page document that we knew most people didn’t even know existed. We also knew that for a teacher to be successful in our old framework, they had to be an expert. In our current landscape, with more new teachers than ever, that just wasn’t feasible or possible. We knew we need to take a step back to revisit the research on how kids learn literacy. We developed a new 1-page literacy vision and framework and voted as a district to fully adopt it.

...guiding key instructional decisions
We looked at our data and realized something needed to change. What we had been doing in the past clearly wasn’t working, especially in literacy. As a district, we decided to prioritize revisiting and relearning what research says about how students learn literacy. This led us to develop a Literacy vision and framework that has become the foundation and guide for how we make all key decisions. When we face challenges, we come back to this framework, and it helps us find a path forward.
An instructional framework can help increase alignment in curriculum and instruction

Districts use their Literacy and Math Framework to:

- evaluate alignment of curriculum and instructional materials
- enhance professional development and coaching supports
- draw stronger connections to new changes in STAAR Redesign
The goal of this grant is for LEAs to develop a content-specific framework, adopted by the district, aligned to the research of how kids learn and the TEKS

This grant will...

- Support collective learning process focused on the research of how kids learn; learning supported by third party so all district staff can be active learners
- Provide change management and stakeholder engagement support so district can effectively build buy-in and support learning across the district
- Provide districts with project management capacity to manage process and support learning efforts
- Give access to a suite of exemplars for districts to turn-key to fit their local context
- Build groups of like-distritcs through Communities or Practice to share successes, challenges, and solutions throughout the process
- Give flexible funding to support travel, stipends, or other expenses that support the process
- Allow districts to receive priority for future TEA grants aligned to literacy and math supports
Awarded districts will be guided through this framework development process by a Technical Assistance Provider.

LEAs will contract with an approved provider to go through the following steps, with the flexibility to customize for their local context:

- Build a Roadmap
- Communications Plan
- Collective Learning
- Develop Framework
- Implement Framework
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LEAs will contract with an approved provider to go through the following steps, with the flexibility to customize for their local context:

- **Build a Roadmap**
  - Build a math/literacy committee
  - Plan framework development process
  - Create and norm on decision making process
- **Communications Plan**
- **Collective Learning**
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- Determine who are the larger stakeholder groups
- Develop customized communication plan for each group
- Set up systems of coaching for stakeholders throughout process

**Collective Learning**

**Develop Framework**

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- **Collective Learning**
  - Develop collective learning scope and sequence focused on research in math and/or literacy
  - Complete collective learning with committee
  - Stamp key collective learning take-aways

- **Develop Framework**

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   - Complete collective learning with committee
   - Stamp key collective learning take-aways

4. **Develop Framework**
   - Based on learning, draft vision and framework
   - Collect feedback and iterate upon the draft with the committee
   - Vote on final framework

5. **Implement Framework**
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- **Develop Framework**
  - Based on learning, draft vision and framework
  - Collect feedback and iterate upon the draft with the committee
  - Vote on final framework

- **Implement Framework**
  - Use final framework to assess existing district resources and supports including:
    - curriculum and instructional materials
    - professional learning focus and design
    - coaching structures and tools
To provide timing flexibility, LEAs can choose two timing options that allow for backward planning by school year.

Timing Option 1 allows for SY 2022–23 planning and SY 2023–24 launch.
- Two application deadlines on July 29th and August 26th give LEAs additional flexibility.
- The first closing date will allow LEAs to start grant activities earlier in the school year, but both closing dates set LEAs up on an ideal timeline to implement their framework and aligned supports during SY 2023–2024.

Timing Option 2 allows for SY 2023–24 planning and SY 2024–25 launch.
- A Winter application will open in late 2022 for LEAs who want to delay the start of this work until summer of 2023 into SY 2023–2024, to support changes they want to make in SY 2024–2025.
Two timing options available to allow for planning by school year, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year</td>
<td>2022-23</td>
<td>2023-24</td>
<td>2024-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
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<td><strong>Timing Option 1</strong> (allows for SY22-23 planning and SY23-24 launch)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SF Framework Grant Activities</td>
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<td>Year 1 Implementation Supports</td>
<td>Year 2 Implementation Grant</td>
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<td><strong>Timing Option 2</strong> (allows for SY23-24 planning and SY24-25 launch)</td>
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Grant Assurances
All assurances for this grant are now posted on the Strong Foundations website

Application Process

1. Submit this short Notice of Intent Form if you plan to apply. This will help us determine if we can offer additional learning supports while the grant application is open.

2. Learn about the grant! The grant application itself does not include narrative responses and is designed to support all interested LEAs in applying. TEA strongly encourages LEAs to spend time learning about the grant assurances to ensure the LEA is ready and committed to meeting the grant requirements. See below for numerous opportunities to learn more.

3. Apply! Before starting the application, please download and review the district assurances (see link below) for this grant opportunity.

Helpful Resources

- Grant Assurance (PDF)
- Grant Application (PDF coming soon)

PDF of grant assurances
All LEAs must meet a set of general assurances prior to engaging in the framework development process

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Appointment of a <strong>primary point of contact</strong> and lead for all grant related activities. The lead will be responsible for ensuring all assurances are met for the LEA, coordinates with selected approved vendor on a regular basis, attends any check-ins or webinars hosted by TEA, and identifies and notifies TEA of an alternative point of contact should the initial contact leave.</td>
<td>• LEA agrees to identify primary point of contact on the application and notify TEA of an alternative point of contact should the initial contact leave the school system</td>
<td>• Grant assurances signed with primary point of contact identified on the grant application</td>
<td>June-August 2022 (at the time of application)</td>
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| LEAs are required to **contract with a technical assistance provider** on the Strong Foundations Approved Provider list. All approved providers will be required to complete and master a set of training on current research aligned to math and literacy, including TEKS alignment, prior to engaging directly with LEAs. | • LEA agrees to contract with an approved provider  
• LEA agrees to partner with an approved provider on minimum technical assistance requirements outlined above  
• LEA agrees to spend a minimum of **70% of grant award funds** on technical assistance unless TEA approves an alternative percentage through a waiver process | • Executed contract sent to TEA | Aug-Sep ‘22 |
LEAs will be awarded direct grant funds to contract with an Approved Provider for the following supports...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>collective learning process focused on the research of how kids learn; learning supported by third party so all district staff can be active learners</th>
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LEAs will be awarded direct grant funds to contract with an Approved Provider for the following supports...

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- **Provide change management and stakeholder engagement support** so district can effectively build buy-in and support learning across the district.

- **Provide districts with project management capacity** to manage process and support learning efforts.

- **Give access to a suite of exemplars** for districts to turn-key to fit their local context.

Technical Assistance Providers and ESCs interested in supporting LEAs with this grant will be undergoing vetting and training this summer in preparation for supporting districts this fall. Note: LEAs will have the opportunity to pre-identify their preferred vendors in the grant application. *TEA cannot guarantee that their preferred vendor meets all the qualifications and becomes an approved vendor.*
## LEA assurances align with each recommended step of developing a Literacy/Math Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Framework Development Phase</th>
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</table>
| **Step 1- Create a Roadmap** | LEAs must complete a roadmap. This roadmap outlines milestones, goal completion dates, stakeholder involved, build out a committee, decision making protocols, and other logistics. | • LEA agrees to work alongside their selected approved provider and complete the roadmap template that accurately displays the district’s key milestones in the framework development process  
• LEA agrees to create a comprehensive committee that is representative of the district for math and/or literacy | Submission of roadmap in template created in coordination with TA provider | Sep-Oct ’22 |
**LEA assurances align with each recommended step of developing a Literacy/Math Framework**

### Framework Development Phase

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<td>Step 2- Build a Communications Plan</td>
<td>LEAs must create a communications plan that determines larger stakeholder groups throughout the school system and community to share out progress and the updates framework</td>
<td>• LEA agrees to creating a robust communications plan in coordination with the selected approved provider that contains all key criteria identified by TEA and listed above</td>
<td>Submission of communications plan</td>
<td>Sep-Oct ’22</td>
</tr>
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| Step 3 - Collective Learning Series | All selected committee members will participate in a collective learning series on the research of how students learn in math and/or literacy. This collective learning series will be developed and facilitated by the LEAs selected approved provider. | • LEAs work alongside their selected approved provider to **plan and execute a robust collective learning series** on the research of how students learn in math and/or literacy  
• LEA agrees **committee members will attend** collective learning series | • Submission of a professional learning (PL) plan for the committee created by the TA provider  
• Exit ticket analysis from collective learning series  
• Committee member attendance submitted to the TA provider for analysis | Sep-Nov ‘22 |
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<td>Step 4- Develop Math and/or Literacy Framework</td>
<td>The committee will draft the math and/or literacy instructional framework. LEAs should plan for the framework to go through multiple iterations and be agreed upon before creating a final framework. The final framework should be reflective of current research, be specific to the LEAs local context, and have sign off from the Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role).</td>
<td>• The LEA agrees to creating a finalized math and/or literacy framework that is reflective of the current research on how students learn, is actionable, and contains the key criteria outlined by TEA</td>
<td>• Creation of completed framework reflective of the current research on how students learn and contains key criteria outlined by TEA • Final framework draft submitted to TEA for review and recommendations • Final framework completed, signed off on by the Superintendent or CAO, submitted to TEA, and communicated out to school system</td>
<td>Dec ’22-Jan ’23</td>
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<td>Step 5- Implement Framework</td>
<td>LEAs will develop an implementation plan to support putting the new framework into action and beginning to identify priority areas needing alignment to the framework (instructional materials, assessment strategy in preparation for STAAR Redesign, or instructional changes related to trainings, coaching, and observing teachers).</td>
<td>• The LEA agrees to create and submit an implementation plan in coordination with their selected approved provider that identifies implementation priorities</td>
<td>Submission of a one-page memo summarizing implementation priorities</td>
<td>Feb ‘23</td>
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We have seen the most success with implementing new instructional frameworks if LEA leadership is onboard.

To set LEAs up for success in the creation and implementation process, there are a set of assurances specific to...

- Approval by leadership for LEAs to participate in the grant
- Leadership sign-offs on key deliverables and participation in learning activities
- Leadership participation in Communities of Practice
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<td>Approval by superintendent or CAO (or equivalent leader) <strong>to participate</strong> in the Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant</td>
<td>• Grant assurances <strong>signed</strong> by superintendent or the CAO (or equivalent leader)</td>
<td>June-August 2022 (at the time of application)</td>
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If someone other than the LEA leadership completes the application, the identified leader will receive an automatic email to review, approve, and sign the submitted application.
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| Select district leaders are required to 1) participate in the collective learning series and 2) sign off on the framework development and adoption process, 3) sign off on the final LEA math and/or literacy framework. | • Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) agrees to participate in collective learning series  
• Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) approves math and/or literacy development and framework adoption and implementation process  
• Superintendent or CAO signs-off on final district math and/or literacy instructional framework | • Grant application signed by Superintendent or CAO  
• Signed professional learning (PL) plan by Superintendent or CAO (see assurance below)  
• Signed math and/or literacy framework by Superintendent or CAO | Jun ’22- Jan ‘23 |
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<td>To support LEAs learning from each other and navigating challenges in the framework development process, the superintendent or CAO and district lead will participate in regular Communities of Practice (CoP) with similar districts or charters. These CoPs will be held virtually and facilitated through TEA.</td>
<td>• LEA lead and superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) agree to participate in monthly Communities of Practice (CoP) with similar LEAs during school year 2022-23</td>
<td>• CoP attendance and exit ticket submission (x8, beginning in September)</td>
<td>Sep ’22-May ’23</td>
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Lastly, LEAs must also agree to a set of assurances that provide information to the LEA and to TEA to continually improve the program

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| Approved providers will be responsible for building out a case study reflecting on the start-to-finish framework development process taken by the LEA in a narrative format. This case study should be a brief, organized document that highlights successes, challenges, and processes the district or charter took in developing a math and/or literacy framework. | • The LEA agrees to a case-study being developed that outlines the LEA’s process of creating a framework from start to finish and plan for implementation  
• The LEA agrees to providing the approved provider the information needed to complete a high-quality case study | • Submission of completed case study created in coordination with approved provider | Jan-Mar ‘23 |
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<td>TEA will send out quarterly surveys to LEAs to distribute to their committees. The survey will contain questions on overall satisfaction with the selected approved provider, trainings and exemplars provided by TEA, and other relevant topics.</td>
<td>• The LEA agrees to submission of feedback surveys from TEA to district leadership and the district committee on a quarterly basis</td>
<td>• Survey submission (x4)</td>
<td>Aug ’22-Jan ‘23</td>
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<td>TEA will host <strong>focus groups</strong> to learn from the process districts took throughout the grant and ways they customized to better fit their local context</td>
<td>• The LEA agrees to participating in an <strong>end-of-grant focus group</strong> upon request. TEA may reach out to request participation of committee members and/or LEA leadership</td>
<td>• Focus group attendance (x1)</td>
<td>Jan-Feb ‘23</td>
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</table>
Grant Application and Awarding
Interested LEAs can apply online through a digital application

The application process includes:
1. Submitting a short **Notice of Intent** form if you plan to apply
2. **Learn more** about the grant through webinars and panels happening throughout the summer
3. **Apply** through the digital application
When starting your digital application, make sure to gather the following information:

**Review...**
1. Grant information
2. Timelines grant is offered
3. Grant assurances

**Gather...**
1. Contact information for the main point of contact for the grant
2. Contact information for LEA leadership signing off on application (Superintendent, CAO, or equivalent role)
3. Anticipated number of committee members developing the math or literacy framework
Recap: LEAs will be awarded at two dates depending on the time of application submission

- The Summer Application allows for SY 2022–23 planning and SY 2023–24 launch.
- There are two application deadlines on July 29, 2022, and August 26, 2022, to give LEAs additional flexibility.
- A Winter Application window will open in late 2022.

- When awarding, TEA will be considering:
  - LEA size
  - Regional location
  - Literacy and math 3rd grade STAAR scores
  - Percentage of economically disadvantaged student

All LEAs are encouraged to apply to this grant opportunity!
Once awarded, LEAs will have flexibility with grant funds

- **70% of grant funds** must go towards a contract with an approved provider.

- The remaining **30% of funds** may be used for:
  - Stipends for staff attending meetings and collective learning.
  - Food expenses during meetings, collective learning, or travel associated with grant activities.
  - Travel expenses (e.g., to visit other districts doing this work).
  - Supplies associated with grant activities.
Next Steps & Questions
Next Steps

- **Grant Webinars [Optional]:** District/campus staff may view a webinar covering details of grant at [Strong Foundations Framework Grant | Texas Education Agency](#).

- **District Panels [Optional]:** Sign up for District Panels to hear from districts already engaging in this work.
  - Date: 7/14; Registration: [Here](#)
  - Date: 8/18; Registration: [Here](#)

- **Research Overview Series [Optional]:** Sign up for overview of research topics series aligned with STAAR Redesign to see if your district may want to explore further.
  - Date: 7/18 (Math) and 7/19 (RLA)
  - Date: 8/19 (Math) and 8/25 (RLA)

- **TEA Consultation [Optional]:** District leaders may sign up for one 30-minute session with TEA [here](#) to help determine what application decision may be best based on local context.

- **Apply to grant [Required]**
  - Open: June 22nd, 2022; Closing: July 29th and August 26th
Contact Us

If you have any questions, submit them here: [https://bit.ly/DistrictFAQ22](https://bit.ly/DistrictFAQ22)

Email us at: [StrongFoundations@tea.Texas.gov](mailto:StrongFoundations@tea.Texas.gov)