



Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) Guidance

General Questions

Q: Why wasn't the TTIPS Cycle 4 grant extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: The TTIPS Cycle 4 and Cycle 5 grants were authorized through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and therefore were not included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) waiver submitted by the Texas Education Agency to the United States Department of Education in April of 2020.

For TTIPS Cycle 4 grant recipients, the grant cannot be extended past the current end date of July 31, 2020.

For TTIPS Cycle 5 grant recipients, the agency is authorized to extend the grant until June 30, 2021. The purpose of this extension is to allow additional time to expend remaining TTIPS funds through the 2020-2021 school year.

Q: Why was the decision made to extend the Cycle 5 grant?

A: The decision to extend Cycle 5 TTIPS grants was based on the amount of remaining unspent TTIPS funds and disruption of COVID-19. The extension allows TTIPS campuses to use existing grant funds to obtain grant objectives.

Q: Can campuses close out the grant early if they don't want the extension?

A: No, all NOGAs (Notice of Grant Awards) have been extended. Therefore, the campus should continue to implement programs aligned to the campus needs assessment, and the school reform model identified in the original grant application. TTIPS Cycle 5 campuses are also expected to complete the same intervention and submission requirements as non-TTIPS campuses working with the Division of School Improvement for the 2020-2021 school year. Intervention requirements include submission of the Reflective Prioritization Activity (RPA), Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) and end-of-year Professional Service Provider (PSP) Report.

Q: Do program guidelines allow for spending on Instructional Continuity expenses like distance learning?

A: Based on Program Guidelines, grant fund expenditures must align to the original application and school reform model interventions. Allowable Activities and Use of Funds can be found in the [Program Guidelines](#).

Q: Have the new deadlines been set for Cycle 4 and Cycle 5 TTIPS campuses?

A: Submission dates for next year will align to the submission dates for non-TTIPS campuses.

- Cycle 4 and Cycle 5 TTIPS campuses interventions and submissions have been extended to August 28

- TTIPS Activity Plan, EOY 1 and EOY 2: Complete as accurately as possible. Upload into ISAM by August 28
- PSP Reports: Complete and send to joanne.crompton@tea.texas.gov by August 28.
- Reflective Priority Activity (RPA): Upload into ISAM by August 28.
- 2020-2021 submission deadlines: TBD
 - We are developing the intervention and submission calendar now. We will provide more information as soon as it has been updated.

Q: Is there a website dedicated to TTIPS?

A: Yes. TTIPS tools and guidance will be posted to the [Texas Title I Priority School Grant Program website](#).

Funding

Q: Since there is not a new allotment of TTIPS grant funds, to what extent will campuses be required to continue programs that were supposed to end in 2020?

A: TTIPS Cycle 5 campuses may use remaining funds that have been extended to June 30, 2021 to continue programs into the 2020-2021 school year. TTIPS Cycle 5 grant is a competitive grant and LEAs must keep their original application goals in mind. Since TTIPS campuses will not receive a new allotment, they will no longer be excluded for the Title I, 1003 School Improvement Grant. This grant will be available to any current TTIPS campus that is also identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement in the federal accountability system. The 2020-2021 Title I, 1003 School Improvement Grant will open on September 8, 2020. The grant application can be found on the [Grant Opportunities](#) page.

Q: Will Cycle 5 campuses still be expected to budget for 2020-2021 incentive payouts?

A: Ultimately, LEAs will determine whether incentive pay will be awarded to teachers and staff for the 2020-2021 school year.

Q: How much discretion will campuses have in spending of remaining funds as long as the expenditures remain aligned to the intent of the grant?

A: The TTIPS Cycle 5 grant will be extended, which includes extending the grant budget through the 2020-2021 school year. The LEA may amend the budget as necessary to continue or adjust the work outlined in the grant application, in line with the campus needs assessment and/or improvement plan. Please refer to [When to Amend the Application and Impact to Expenditure Reporting \(ER\) Requests](#) for information about amending a grant.

Q: If amendments are needed for TTIPS Cycle 5 grant budgets, how do we make an amendment and when is the last date to submit an amendment?

A: Please refer to [When to Amend the Application and Impact to Expenditure Reporting \(ER\) Requests](#) for information about amending a grant. The last day to submit a TTIPS Cycle 5 amendment is April 1, 2021.

Q: Can expenditures be held over for 20-21? If yes, what are the allowable expenditures? If yes, are they allowed to continue personnel positions that are grant funded? If yes, what if there is not enough funding for the grant coordinator?

A: Expenditures made in the 2019-2020 SY should be drawn down in a timely fashion. Grants Administration suggests a minimum of quarterly draw downs. TTIPS Cycle 5 grant budget will be continued through the 2020-2021 school year. Allowable Activities and Use of Funds can be found in the [Program Guidelines](#). The LEA may use local funds for payroll costs and/or as eligible apply for School Improvement Grant funds. This grant will be available to any current TTIPS campus that is also identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement in the federal accountability system.

Q: Is it required to have a TTIPS Grant Coordinator for each district/campus? Is this written into the grant?

A: Please review the TEA Program Requirements section of the TTIPS Cycle 5 Program Guidelines, which includes a requirement of the LEA to designate an individual or office with primary responsibilities for supporting the LEA/campus' school improvement efforts. This individual/office will have primary responsibility and authority for ensuring the effective implementation of the grant option approved by TEA; serve as the district liaison to TEA and those providing technical assistance and/or contracted service to the LEA/campus as part of the approved grant.

Q: We have the Early Learning Model. With the funds 10 people were hired. Is it possible to fund two of those people for the coming year with the funds remaining? (A Collaborative Learning Leader and one Instructional Coach).

A: TTIPS Cycle 5 grant budget will be continued through the 2020-2021 school year including Payroll expenses. The LEA may determine the use of funds to support the grant initiatives including funding personnel positions. Please refer to [When to Amend the Application and Impact to Expenditure Reporting \(ER\) Requests](#) for information about amending a grant.

Q: Where can I find the Final Expenditure Report Template?

A: The Final Expenditure Report is submitted in the Expenditure Reporting application. Find the link to the TEAL login here: <https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/>

Q: What amount of funds do we have left in the grant?

A: Please reach out directly to Alice Keller; alice.keller@tea.texas.gov for information about individual grant funds remaining.

Q: Do we need to amend to resubmit or do we continue with the same budget? Do we need to amend to move the monies around?

A: TTIPS Cycle 5 grant budgets will be extended to June 30, 2021. Please refer to [When to Amend the Application and Impact to Expenditure Reporting \(ER\) Requests](#)

Q: Do we need to do amendments for field trips?

A: TTIPS Cycle 5 grant recipients should be able to reschedule field trips into the 2020-2021 school year. If a Cycle 5 grant recipient is unable to reschedule a field trip, they should review their approved budget and if necessary, submit an amendment to their current approved grant application. For more information on when to amend a grant, LEAs should review the [When to Amend the Application](#) on the Grants Administration Division website.

Q: Can TTIPS Campuses get new funding next year (aside from the 19-20 funds they are spending down)?

A: In the 2020-2021 school year, the Division of School Improvement will remove the exclusion of TTIPS campuses to the Title I, 1003 School Improvement Grant application. This grant will be available to any current TTIPS campus that is also identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement in the federal accountability system. The 2020-2021 Title I, 1003 School Improvement Grant will open on September 8, 2020. The grant application can be found on the [Grants Opportunity](#) page.

ISAM

Q: Will the dates in ISAM be updated?

A: ISAM has been updated. TTIPS Activity Plan, PSP Progress Reports, End of Year Part 1 and Part 2 are due in ISAM on August 28, 2020.

TTIPS Cycle 5 campuses that extend will submit Targeted Improvement Plans at the same time as non-TTIPS campuses and will be asked to submit an End of Year PSP report. Specific submission dates are not yet determined.

Professional Service Providers (PSPs)

Q: What happens if PSPs choose not to extend? It may be difficult to get PSPs to commit.

A: All current Cycle 5 PSPs will be given the option to extend their work for the remaining hours in their 2019-2020 LOA. If the PSP does not wish to extend their LOA for 2020-2021, TEA and ESC13 will determine if a replacement is possible with another TTIPS trained PSP. If this isn't possible, the TEA Specialist will coordinate with ESC 13 to determine the best course of action for support.

Q: I have not had any contact or done any work with the campus since we were at TTIPS training in February. How do I document that there has been no support provided as there has not been a need?

A: Please utilize the PSP Progress report to document all supports given. If there has been a pause in support due to COVID-19 or there is no longer a need for support, this should be documented in the prioritized focus area section of the PSP Progress report.

Q: If we already have a PSP, can he or she complete the work that was allotted within the grant? Carry over her contract?

A: For Cycle 5 campuses, the PSP may complete the work that was originally written into the grant with the remaining funds until those funds are expended and before the extended deadline. Only Cycle 5 schools will be able to carry over the remaining hours from the 2019-2020 LOA.

Q: Where can the PSP find the necessary templates?

A: Templates for the TTIPS Activity Plan, End-of-Year Part 2 and Professional Service Provider (PSP) Reports are posted on the [Texas Title I Priority School Grant Program website](#).

Q: Guidance for PSP expectations for campus support

A: Guidance for the PSP expectations is located on the TEA Website. Click here for a direct link. [Campus PSP Job Descriptions](#). PSPs should also refer to the most current PSP Guidance Handbook, as well as, the TTIPS grant application, and planning documents submitted by the LEA. A revised 2020-2021 Guidance Handbook link will be provided to all continuing Cycle 5 PSPs. This will be available by September 2020 when LOA extensions are sent out to PSPs and will be posted to the [Texas Title I Priority School Grant Program website](#).

Q: Planning PSP hours left on contracts? How do we spread out hours and will they go through June 2021?

A: For Cycle 5 campuses, the PSP may complete the work that was originally written into the grant with the remaining funds until those funds are expended and before June 2021. Planning for the remaining hours should be coordinated with the DCSI and campus leadership.

Q: Will the PSP report change or will the PSP complete the same report next school year?

A: The PSP Report template for the 2019-2020 school year will remain the same for the 2020-2021 school year. This report should be submitted at the end of the extension period, June 30, 2021.

Reflective Prioritization Activity (RPA)

Q: Will we be required to complete the RPA or will grant documents that were submitted after the February Training suffice as reflective for the sustainability of practices?

A: Sustainability documents created after the February Training will not replace the RPA. The RPA is replacing Targeted Improvement Plan submissions for Cycle 3 and Cycle 4. TTIPS campuses will follow instructions for RPA Pathway 2.

Q: Where do we find the RPA guidance document on the TEA School Improvement website?

A: RPA Guidance, webinars, timelines, and tools are located on the TEA Campus Interventions and Guidance website. Click here for a direct link to RPA Pathway 2 on the [Texas Title I Priority School Grant Program website](#).

Targeted Improvement Plans (TIPs)

Q: Can TTIPS campuses fully implement their TIP plans from 2019-2020 or are they still going to be required to use Critical Factors?

A: School Improvement and TTIPS campuses have moved away from TAIS and the Critical Success Factors and are using the Effective Schools Framework (ESF). Any TTIPS documents containing the Critical Success Factors (such as the Activity Plans) will not be used during the 2020-2021 school year. Instead, TTIPS campuses will use the ESF Essential Actions to complete the Reflective Prioritization Activity (RPA) which will inform their updated Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for the 2020-2021 school year.

Accountability

Q: Will there be a rating in 20-21 or will there be an adapted rating?

A: Decisions regarding accountability for the 2020-2021 school year have not yet been made. Please find the most updated guidance on the [COVID-19 Support and Guidance](#) site.

End-of-Year Submissions

Q: When will we receive the End-of-Year Part 2 template? Will it be pre-populated with the 2-18-19 data?

A: The End-of-Year Part 2 template will be uploaded to the [Texas Title I Priority School Grant Program website](#). The template will not include pre-populated data.