



Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development *Grant Application*

Background

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is launching a new grant opportunity for **school year 2022–23** to support LEAs in creating and implementing a **math or literacy framework**. Funded through the [Strong Foundations Grant Program](#) (TEC Sec. 29.0881) established through House Bill 4545, this grant opportunity is available to all LEAs. TEA is offering this grant based on feedback from numerous LEAs about the importance and urgency of this work for the following reasons:

- LEAs who have found success in supporting student growth post-COVID cited that aligning on a strong, research-based instructional framework was a crucial step. It provided a unified vision of success and served as a rallying point for stakeholders around the universal “why” behind initiatives adopted to support student growth.
- LEAs with strong instructional frameworks can more easily increase alignment in other critical areas related to curriculum and instruction, such as:
 - **Curriculum and Instructional Materials**: LEAs are using the key research concepts identified in new frameworks to evaluate the quality of instructional materials.
 - **Instruction**: LEAs are using their framework to reevaluate how they train, observe, and coach teachers.
 - **Assessment**: LEAs are observing how new frameworks are directly connected to changes in the STAAR Redesign and how they can drive their overall LEA assessment strategy.

LEAs selected for this grant will be engaging in a multi-step process to develop a math or literacy (or both) framework that includes:

Step 1: Building your Roadmap	Step 2: Build Communications Plan	Step 3: Collective Learning Series	Step 4: Develop District Literacy / Math Framework	Step 5: Implement Framework
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build a committee 2. Assess your current data and frameworks 3. Backward plan from end goal 4. Develop decision-making protocols 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine who are the larger stakeholder groups 2. Develop customized communication plan for each group 3. Set up systems of coaching for stakeholders throughout process 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop collective learning scope and sequence focused on research 2. Complete collective learning 3. Stamp key collective learning take-aways 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on learning, draft vision and framework 2. Collect feedback and iterate upon the draft with the committee 3. Vote on final framework 	<p>Use final framework to assess existing district resources and supports including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. curriculum and instructional materials 2. professional learning focus and design 3. coaching structures and tools

LEAs benefits from this grant include:

- Funding for **technical assistance** from a state approved vendor list to **facilitate collective learning series** for LEA and support stakeholder and project management
- Opportunity to participate in **LEA leader community of practice** to hear progress and approach of other LEAs, similar in profile
- Funds to support project manager and committee members (LEAs may choose to support staff with **salaries or stipends** based on local context)
- Access to **exemplars of key deliverables** that LEAs can adapt for local context
- Receive **priority** for future TEA grant awards aligned to literacy and math supports

Timing

There are two main grant timeline options for LEAs to choose from based on their local context.

The first option supports LEAs who want to complete this work during the upcoming SY22-23. This will allow LEAs to access additional implementation supports TEA plans to make available for SY23-24. For LEAs interested in this timing option, the application opened on **June 22, 2022**, and will have **two closing dates** to accommodate LEAs applying:

- July 29, 2022 – First Closing Date

- August 26, 2022 – Second Closing Date

TEA will process and award applications after each close date and will hold slots for LEAs for both close date options. TEA will announce awards within two weeks of each close date. The July application 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 the SY23-24.

The second timing option supports LEAs who want to delay the start of this work until SY23-24 to support changes they want to make in SY24-25. A winter 2022 application will be available for LEAs who prefer this timing option.

Awarding

This grant opportunity is available to all LEAs and open-enrollment charters. When making awards, TEA will consider LEA size and location, LEA literacy and math 3rd grade STAAR scores, and percentage of economically disadvantaged students from the 2021-22 school year. LEAs may apply to do this work for literacy, math or both subject areas; however, LEAs are encouraged to focus only on one subject area at a time. For example, they may choose to apply to literacy for this grant cycle and math in a future grant cycle. If an LEA applies to both, they may be awarded only one subject area based on capacity. They also may be awarded both based on available capacity. There will be an opportunity for LEAs to add-on other subject areas or focuses during the winter cycle of this grant (the second timing option outlined in the previous section).

Assurances

Before starting this application, please download and review [the district assurances](#) for this grant opportunity. These assurances are included in the digital application and must be agreed upon prior to submitting. You may view a PDF of these assurances [here](#) for your reference.

LEA Submission Requirements

Any LEA personnel can complete and submit this grant application; however, the application will not be processed for an LEA until the Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent role) receives, reviews, and signs off on the LEA application. Upon submission of the initial application, the identified Superintendent or CAO in the

application will be **automatically** sent the application to review, sign, and re-submit. If the CAO or Superintendent is also the one filling out and submitting the application, not further action will be required upon submission. If you are facing any technical challenges, please reach out to StrongFoundations@tea.texas.gov for additional support.

Your first and last name

Email

Role in district or charter

LEAs must select a main point of contact for this grant that receives all TEA communications and serves as the lead for grant activities for the LEA.

Are you serving as the main point of contact for this grant?

- Yes
- No

Select your region and LEA from the list below.

ESC Region

LEA Name and Number

Are you in one of the following Roles: Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer or Curriculum & Instruction Director?

- Yes
- No

This grant opportunity will close at two different dates this summer to allow for LEAs to apply and begin the grant work earlier. TEA will process and award applications submitted at the end of July 2022 and then again at the end of August 2022. LEAs applying during the summer are agreeing to complete this work during the upcoming SY22-23. LEAs who prefer to start this work at a later time should wait to apply for a

future grant application that TEA is planning to release in winter 2022. Please confirm you have read the timeline implications in the introduction above.

- I have read the timeline implications

LEAs can choose to focus on developing a math framework, a literacy framework, or both. Please select the subject area(s) you wish to develop instructional frameworks for through this grant opportunity.

If your LEA selected both a math and literacy instructional framework and could only be awarded one, **which subject area is your preference?**

Literacy Instructional Framework Development

Your LEA will be required to work alongside a technical assistance (TA) provider on TEA’s Strong Foundations Approved Provider List. This approved vendor list will be released this summer 2022. **Does your LEA have a preferred technical assistance provider to support this work?**

Note: *TEA will reach out to all TA providers requested to determine interest and ability to be on the approved list so that we can support LEAs in limiting the number of third-party vendors they are required to work with across different initiatives. However, TEA cannot guarantee the TA provider input here will be officially approved.*

If you selected “other” TA provider, provide the name of the vendor your LEA prefers support from.

As a part of this grant opportunity, LEAs are required to develop a literacy committee responsible for completing the collective learning series, providing input and feedback on the development of the district’s literacy framework, working collaboratively to build a final product that is officially “adopted,” and supporting the implementation of that framework across the district. TEA highly recommends this committee include district leaders (including the superintendent and academic cabinet members), district instructional leaders

(e.g., curriculum directors, principal supervisors), campus leaders, instructional coaches, and teachers.

Indicate the number of staff you anticipate serving on the literacy committee. Please note, LEAs may change this number as they roll out the grant.

- Number of district leaders:
- Number of campus leaders:
- Number of instructional coaches:
- Number of teachers:

- Total

Is your LEA superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) committed to serving on the literacy committee?

- Yes
- No

Math Instructional Framework Development

Your LEA will be required to work alongside a technical assistance (TA) provider on TEA’s Strong Foundations Approved Provider List. This approved vendor list will be released this summer 2022. **Does your LEA have a preferred technical assistance provider to support this work?**

Note: TEA will reach out to all TA providers requested to determine interest and ability to be on the approved list so that we can support LEAs in limiting the number of third-party vendors they are required to work with across different initiatives. However, TEA cannot guarantee the TA provider input here will be officially approved.

If you selected “other” TA provider, provide the name of the vendor your LEA prefers support from.

As a part of this grant opportunity, districts are required to develop a math committee responsible for completing the collective learning series, providing input and feedback on the development of the district’s math framework, working collaboratively to build a final product that is officially “adopted,” and supporting the implementation of that framework across the district. TEA highly recommends this committee include district leaders (including the superintendent and academic cabinet members), district instructional leaders (e.g., curriculum directors, principal supervisors), campus leaders, instructional coaches, and teachers.

Indicate the number of staff you anticipate serving on the math committee. Please note, LEAs may change this number as they roll out the grant.

- Number of district leaders:
- Number of campus leaders:
- Number of instructional coaches:
- Number of teachers:
- Total

Is your LEA superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) committed to serving on the math committee?

- Yes
- No



Assurances

The following pages consist of the participant assurances for the 2022-23 Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant.

Please confirm that your school system commits to meeting the Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant 2022-23 participant assurances. Your LEA commits to meeting all assurances and submitting all requested artifacts and deliverables listed below. The timing outlined below is recommended for LEAs engaging in supports to put their new framework into action for school year 2023-24

LEAs *may* choose a longer timeline depending on their local context. TEA will have a waiver process for LEAs requesting an extended timeline.

Grant assurances can be found here in a [PDF format](#) for your reference.

Approval Assurances

Assurance Description	Evidence	Submission Timing
Approval by superintendent or CAO (or equivalent leader) to participate in the Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant.	Grant assurances signed by superintendent or the CAO (or equivalent leader)	June-August 2022 (at time of applications submission)
Appointment of a primary point of contact and LEA lead for all grant related activities. The LEA lead will be responsible for ensuring all assurances are met below for the LEA, coordinates with selected approved vendor on a regular basis, attends any check-ins or webinars hosted by TEA, and communicates with TEA should the primary point of contact leave the LEA during the grant period.	Grant assurances signed with primary point of contact identified on the grant application	June-August 2022 (at time of applications submission)

Leadership Assurances

LEA Assurances	Evidence	Submission Timing
<p>LEAs are required to contract with a technical assistance provider on the Strong Foundations Approved Provider List. All approved vendors will be required to complete and master a set of training on current research aligned to math and literacy prior to engaging directly with LEAs. This provider at the minimum must provide the LEA with technical assistance to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) design a collective learning scope and sequence aligned to research 2) support delivery and facilitation of collective learning 3) support the LEA in developing a math and/or literacy framework aligned to research 4) review the LEA’s final plan to provide input on alignment to research 5) build out a brief case study on the start to finish process the LEA took to develop the framework. <p><i>Note- the Strong Foundations Approved Vendor List will be released in early August 2022.</i></p>	<p>Executed contract sent to TEA</p>	<p>August – September 2022</p>

Official Assurances

	Agree	Disagree
LEA agrees to contract with an approved provider.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LEA agrees to partner with an approved provider on minimum technical assistance requirements outlined above	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Leadership Assurances

LEA Assurances	Evidence	Submission Timing
<p>For a math or literacy framework to be effectively adopted and implemented throughout the LEA, it needs the support of LEA leadership. Given this, select LEA leaders are required to do the following:</p> <p>1) participate in the collective learning series 2) sign off on the framework development and adoption process 3) sign off on the final district math and literacy framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application signed by Superintendent or CAO • Signed professional learning (PL) plan by Superintendent or CAO • Signed math and/or literacy framework by Superintendent or CAO 	June 2022 - January 2023

Official Assurances

	Agree	Disagree
Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) agree to participate in collective learning series	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) approve math and/or literacy development and framework adoption and implementation process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Superintended or CAO sign-off on final LEA math and/or literacy instructional framework.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Leadership Assurances

LEA Assurances	Evidence	Submission Timing
To support LEAs learning from each other and navigating challenges in the framework development process, the Superintendent or CAO and LEA lead will participate in regular Communities of Practice (CoP) with similar LEAs. These CoPs will be held virtually and facilitated through TEA.	CoP attendance and exit ticket submission (x8, beginning in September)	September 2022- May 2023

Official Assurance

Agree

Disagree

LEA lead and Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) agrees to participate in monthly Communities of Practice (CoP) with similar LEA school year 2022-23



Framework Development Assurances

LEA Step 1: Create a Roadmap	Evidence	Submission Timing
<p>To support LEAs in planning for developing a math and/or literacy framework, LEAs must complete a roadmap. A roadmap will serve as the guiding tool for the instructional framework creation and beyond. This roadmap outlines milestones, goal completion dates, stakeholders involved, build out of a committee, decision making protocols, the process taken within each milestone, and any logistics or tasks associated with that milestone. Approved providers will support LEAs in the creation and customization of this roadmap.</p> <p>As part of the roadmap creation, LEAs are required to create a committee representative of the LEA to go through the collective learning series and give feedback on the framework. Committee members should include district leaders (including the superintendent and academic cabinet members), district instructional leaders (e.g., curriculum directors, principal supervisors), campus leaders, instructional coaches, and teachers.</p>	Submission of roadmap in template created in coordination with TA provider	September - October 2022

Official Assurance

Agree

Disagree

LEAs agrees to work alongside their selected approved provider and complete the roadmap template that accurately displays the LEA key milestones in the framework development process



LEA agrees to create a comprehensive committee that is representative of the LEA for math and/or literacy



Framework Development Assurances

LEA Step 2: Build a Communications Plan	Evidence	Submission Timing
<p>To support the communication and implementation of the framework development process and finalized framework, LEAs will create a robust communications plan. This plan must determine larger stakeholder groups throughout the school system and community and develop customized communications plans for each identified stakeholder group. This plan will also incorporate a communication plan for the selected committee throughout the process to ensure a closed feedback loop and that all committee members are kept up to date on the framework development process.</p>	<p>Submission of communications plan in template created in coordination with TA provider</p>	<p>September-October 2022</p>

Official Assurance

Agree

Disagree

LEA agrees to creating a robust communications plan in coordination with the selected TA provider that contains all key criteria identified by TEA and listed above



Framework Development Assurances

LEA Step 3: Collective Learning Series	Evidence	Submission Timing
To support the creation of a research-based math or literacy framework, 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. All committee members, including the district or charter Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) should be active learners at all sessions held.	Submission of a professional learning (PL) plan for the committee created by the TA provider, exit ticket analysis from collective learning series, and committee member attendance submitted to the TA provider for analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL plan – September 2022 • One-pager on exit ticket analysis and Collective Learning Series takeaways from the committee – November 2022

Official Assurances

Agree

Disagree

LEA works 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



Agree

Disagree

LEA agrees committee members will attend collective learning series



Framework Development Assurances

LEA Step 4: Develop LEA Math and/or Literacy Framework	Evidence	Submission Timing
<p>After completing the collective learning series with the LEA's committee, the committee will begin to 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). TEA will provide exemplars and key criteria for instructional frameworks that LEAs can customize alongside their selected approved vendor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (or equivalent role), submitted to TEA, and communicated out to the LEA 	<p>December 2022-January 2023</p>

Official Assurance

Agree

Disagree

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



Agree

Disagree

contains the key criteria outlined by TEA

Framework Development Assurances

LEA Step 5: Implement Framework	Evidence	Submission Timing
<p>After completing and finalizing the math and/or literacy framework, 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).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of a one-page memo summarizing implementation priorities 	<p>February 2023</p>

Official Assurances

Agree

Disagree

The LEA agrees to create and submit an implementation plan in coordination with their selected approved provider that identifies implementation priorities



General Assurances

Assurance Description	Evidence	Submission Timing
<p>To support continuous improvement for the LEA and TEA, 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 LEA took in developing a math and/or literacy</p>	<p>Submission of completed case study created in coordination with TA provider</p>	<p>January-March 2023</p>

Assurance Description	Evidence	Submission Timing
framework.		

Official Assurances

	Agree	Disagree
The LEA agrees to a case-study being developed that outlines district process of creating a framework from start to finish and plan for implementation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The LEA agrees to providing the approved provider the information needed to complete a high-quality case study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

General Assurances

Assurance Description	Evidence	Submission Timing
In order to continuously improve the grant program, TEA will send out quarterly surveys to LEAs to distribute to their committees. The survey will contain questions on overall satisfaction with the selected provider, trainings and exemplars provided by TEA, and other relevant topics.	Survey submission (x4)	August 2022 – January 2023

Official Assurance

	Agree	Disagree
The LEA agrees to submission of feedback surveys from TEA to	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Agree

Disagree

LEA leadership and the
LEA committee on a
quarterly basis

General Assurances

Assurance Description	Evidence	Submission Timing
In order to continuously improve the grant program, TEA will coordinate a focus group with committee members and/or LEA leadership.	Focus group attendance (x1)	January-February 2023

Official Assurance

Agree

Disagree

The LEA agrees to participating in an end-of-grant focus group upon request. TEA may reach out to request participation of committee members and/or LEA leadership

Application Submission

Do you approve this submission?

- Yes
- No

Your Signature