Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) 2022-2023 Winter Cycle

Blended Learning Grant Program Guidelines



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Grant Program Guidelines 2022

Grant Name as it will appear on the TEA Grant Opportunities Page	Blended Learning Grants
Application Due Date	11:59 p.m. Central Time, December 22, 2022
Program Authority	General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 76, 87th Texas Legislature; TEC Sec 28.020 – Math Innovation Zones - and 29.924 – Blended Learning Grant Program-28.020(a)(2) and General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 40, 87th Texas Legislature

INTRODUCTION

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), as the pass-through entity¹, is the grantee² from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and TEA awards subgrants to non-federal entities³ such as local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and education service centers, and to a lesser degree institutions of higher education (IHEs), and nonprofit organizations (NPOs) who are the agency's subgrantees⁴. These guidelines apply to all subgrantees of TEA, regardless of whether referenced herein as subgrantee or grantee. For purposes of this document, TEA may use the terms grantee and subgrantee synonymously for its subrecipients.

This document MUST be used in conjunction with the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u> and the specific program instructions. The Standard Application consists of all forms to be completed in order for the applicant to be eligible for funding.

For applicants selected for funding, all guidelines and instructions will be incorporated by reference into the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

¹ Pass-through entity is defined as a non-Federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal program. (2 CFR 200.74)

² Grantee is defined as the legal entity to which a grant is awarded and that is accountable to the federal government for the use of the funds provided. The term "grantee" does not include any secondary recipients, such as subgrantees and contractors that may receive funds from a grantee. (34 CFR 77)

³ Non-federal entity is defined as a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient. (2 CFR 200.69)

⁴ Subgrantee is defined by TEA to be the same as a subrecipient which is defined as a non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. (2 CFR 200.93) Subgrantee is defined in 34 CFR 77 as the legal entity to which a subgrant is awarded and that is accountable to the grantee for the use of the funds provided.

REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL AND FISCAL GUIDELINES

The Program Guidelines provide information specifically relevant to this grant program. The <u>General and</u> <u>Fiscal Guidelines</u> provide information relevant to all TEA grant programs. Throughout the Guidelines, cross-references are given to applicable sections of the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>. It is critical that you review all referenced sections of the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u> when preparing your application.

OVERVIEW OF GRANT PROCESS

The following steps provide a high-level overview of the process for responding to a grant opportunity, including submitting an application, and being selected for funding:

- 1. TEA publishes grant application and supporting documents on the <u>TEA Grant Opportunities</u> webpage.
- 2. Eligible applicants submit grant application via Qualtrics to TEA by the specified deadline on the <u>TEA Grant Opportunities</u> webpage.
- 3. Grant applications are reviewed and scored. Note: Applicants may be required to attend an oral interview or respond to additional questions regarding their application.
- 4. TEA announces applicants selected for funding on the TEA <u>Grants Awarded Data</u> webpage.
- 5. <u>Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit and certify an eGrant application</u> <u>including assurances and a budget summary to receive funding.</u>
- 6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the eGrants application.
- 7. The Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) will be issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND/OR STATE APPROPRIATIONS

The following is provided in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education Appropriations Act:

Category	Amount
Total funds available for this project	\$9,492,305
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	0%
Amount of federal funds	\$0
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources	100%
Amount of nonfederal funds	\$9,492,305

APPLICANT ASSISTANCE

The following types of assistance are available to applicants for this grant program.

Contact for Clarifying Information

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, TEA Contacts.

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Program manager name	Michael Strange
Program manager title	Blended Learning Program Manager
Program manager email	Michael.strange@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	(512) 463-9616

Errata Notices

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Errata Notices.

TIMELINE

Dates, except the grant ending date, may vary slightly as conditions require.

Date	Event
November 7, 2022	Grant application available
November 14,2022; 11:00-12:00pm November	Webinar schedule
17, 2022; 10:00-11:00am	See the General and Fiscal Guidelines Applicants'
	Conference/Webinar
	Webinar registration link can be found at <u>LASO</u>
	website
	Webinars will be both live and recorded
December 1, 2022	Due date to submit questions for FAQ See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u> , Frequently Asked Questions.
	The FAQs for this grant program will be posted to the <u>TEA Grant Opportunities</u> and <u>LASO website</u> site no later than the date listed on the Grant Timeline. Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at LASO@tea.texas.gov

Date	Event
December 6, 2022	FAQ Publishing
December 22, 2022	Due date for the application. The application must
	be received by the TEA by 11:59 p.m., Central
	Time.
	See General and Fiscal Guidelines, Grant
	Application Due Date and Time
December 28, 2022- January 30, 2023	Application review period, including interviews if
	necessary
	See General and Fiscal Guidelines, Grant Review
	Process
February 6, 2023	Anticipated award announcement
June 1, 2023	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding)
	See General and Fiscal Guidelines, Grant Period
January 30, 2025	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for
	funding)
April 30, 2025	Ending date of grant (if selected for funding)
	See General and Fiscal Guidelines, Grant Period

For all dates related to the grant, including reporting dates, see the <u>TEA Grant Opportunities</u> page. If a due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the date will be on the following business day. All dates except the grant ending date may vary slightly as conditions require.

GRANT AT A GLANCE

This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the grant program.

Authorizing Legislation

General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 76, 87th Texas Legislature; TEC Sec 28.020 – Math Innovation Zones - and 29.924 – Blended Learning Grant Program-28.020(a)(2) and General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 40, 87th Texas Legislature

Where to Submit the Grant Application

Complete the application via the link emailed to the Superintendent In case, if the LEA is unable to receive the application link in the superintendent email, please refer to this form posted on <u>LASO</u> website to acquire a new link

Purpose of Program

The Blended Learning grant will support school districts and open-enrollment charter schools through a planning stage to design and subsequently implement a high-quality blended learning model in math (through Math Innovation Zones - MIZ) and reading language arts (RLA) aligned with a TEA open education resource (OER) core curriculum.

Eligible Applicants

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Eligibility To Apply

LEAs who have participated in the COVID Response Instructional Materials Initiative (CRIMSI) or TCLAS Decision 2 State Approved Vendor List to implement a TEA-available math or RLA OER products.

Shared Services Arrangements

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, Shared Services Arrangements. Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed.

APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

This section describes the required attachments that must be included with the application.

Required Attachments

See the following section of the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>: GRANT *Required Program-Related Attachments*

There will be no required program-related attachments.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND ASSURANCES

This section describes the types of requirements that applicants must assure adherence to in order to be eligible to be considered for funding:

- Statutory requirements (requirements defined in the authorizing statute)
- TEA program requirements (requirements defined by TEA program staff)

Statutory Requirements

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines Statutory Requirements.

Per TEC §22.0834, any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u> Fingerprinting *Requirement*.

The following requirements are defined in the statute that authorizes this program. The applicant must comply with each of these requirements in the application to be considered for funding:

- 1. Implement with fidelity an innovative blended learning instructional program approved by the Commissioner for purposes of this section that addresses the essential knowledge and skills of the subject-specific curriculum required by Sections §29.924 and/or §28.020 of the TEC;
- 2. Comply with objectives, metrics, and other MIZ requirements imposed by the Commissioner through rules adopted under Subsection (g); and
- 3. Provide all data relating to the grant program requested by the agency.

TEA Program Requirements

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, GRANT Program Requirements.

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements. Applicants must address within the application how they will achieve the following:

- The grantee will designate and provide a district-level project manager who will be available to dedicate approximately 50% of his or her time to designing and implementing the BLGP plan.
- 2. The grantee will submit planning deliverables such as a master schedule, assessment calendar, stakeholder engagement plan, professional learning calendars, etc.
- 3. The grantee will participate in required communities of practice and any additional grant program meetings.
- 4. The grantee must contract with an approved blended learning curriculum vendor.
- 5. The grantee will complete all required trainings to build competency in the online curriculum.
- 6. The grantee must implement a TEA-approved OER product and online curriculum program in all grade levels selected to participate in the Blended Learning grant.

Program-Specific Assurances

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>Provisions and Assurances. The program-specific assurances are listed on the application.

- 1. The grantee will submit strategic planning deliverables in the first year of implementation.
- The grantee will complete blended learning execution requirements in program implementation, including student progress on selected online curriculum, unit assessment data from OER curriculum, and evidence of training completion
- 3. The grantee will adhere to all statutory requirements in TEC Sections 28.020 and 29.924 including, but not limited to:
 - a. Develop a plan to implement a blended learning model according to statute requirements
 - b. Implement the model across at least one full grade level at the campus and expand to other grade levels and/or campuses
 - c. Require teachers to differentiate instruction for all students in a grade level using the blended learning model
 - d. Provide teachers and other relevant personnel with professional development opportunities regarding blended learning
 - e. Require the use of a proficiency-based assessment

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

This section provides detailed information about the grant.

Description of Program

Blended learning combines face to face instruction with online learning to provide access to core tier 1 instruction for all students while differentiating supplemental instruction based on individual student needs with powerful, adaptive online curriculum.

The Blended Learning grant will support school districts and open-enrollment charter schools through a planning stage, starting in fall of 2023-2024, to design and subsequently implement a high-quality blended learning model in math (through Math Innovation Zones-MIZ) and reading language arts (RLA) aligned with a TEA open education resource (OER) core curriculum. Implementation will continue through the 2024-2025 school year.

Awarded LEAs that have participated in the Covid Recovery Instructional Materials Support Initiative (CRIMSI) will receive support with licenses for approved products, professional learning opportunities for high fidelity use of these products, technical assistance for designing and implementing a blended learning model, and other costs related to the implementation of a blended learning model.

Supplement, Not Supplant

For supplement, not supplant guidance, see the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook on the Grants Administration Division's <u>Administering a Grant</u> page.

The supplement not supplant provision ⊠Applies

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The applicant agrees to provide data on the qualifications and experience of the existing or future staff members, as required per the program guidelines as follows:

LEAs must identify a project manager who is able to navigate across departments in the LEA to facilitate strong planning and implementation processes.

PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION MEASURES

Performance Measures

The applicant agrees to collect data and report on the following mandatory performance and evaluation measures:

1. The grantee must submit strategic planning deliverables such as a master schedule, assessment calendar, stakeholder engagement plan, professional learning calendars, etc.

 The grantee will complete blended learning execution requirements in program implementation, including student progress on selected online curriculum, unit assessment data from OER curriculum, and evidence of training completion

Limits on Contracted Evaluators

Applicants should make every effort to ensure that contracted evaluators be independent and objective.

APPLICATION FUNDING

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines: Continuation Funding, Fund Management, and Use of Funds

It is anticipated that approximately 50 awardees will be awarded ranging in amounts from \$10,000 to \$500,000.

\$100,000 + (# of campuses x \$10,000) + (# of students x \$40); Cap = \$400,000 if awarded math OR RLA, Cap= \$500,000 if awarded math AND RLA

Selection of Applicants for Funding

Applicants will be selected in: ⊠Rank order

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *Cost Share/Match Requirement*. TEA (or Authorizing statue) requires a: ☑ There is no cost share or matching requirement

Limitation of Administrative Funds

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Administrative Costs.

NOTE: Administrative funds include both direct administrative costs and allowable indirect costs.

Direct Administrative Costs

 \boxtimes TEA/ limits the amount of direct administrative costs to no more than 8% of the total award.

Indirect Costs

For Federal Grants Only Does not apply to this grant program

For State Funded Grants Only

☑ If supplement, not supplant applies | For this state-funded grant, the grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to the lesser of its current, approved <u>restricted</u> indirect cost rate or 15%.

To calculate the maximum indirect costs that can be claimed for a grant, complete the <u>Maximum</u> <u>Indirect Costs Worksheet</u>, posted on the Administering a Grant page, under the Handbooks and Other Guidance section.

Pre-Award Costs

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Pre-Award Costs.

Pre-award costs: ⊠ are permitted

Note Pre-award costs are permitted from the award announcement date to the start date.

Activities and Use of Funds

See the <u>Administering a Grant</u> page for general guidance on allowable activities and use of funds.

Allowable activities and use of funds may include but are not limited to the following:

Field Trips

Field trips ⊠ may not be funded under the grant program

Only the following types of field trips are allowable: Note Field Trips will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Field Trips Justification form, refer to the <u>Administering a Grant page</u>.

Advisory Council

An advisory council: ⊠may not be funded under the grant program.

Only the following types of advisory councils are allowable

Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization

The cost of membership in any civic or community organization: May not be funded under the grant program.

Only the following types of civic or community organization membership costs are allowable:

Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences

Hosting or sponsoring conferences May be funded under the grant program

Conferences must be managed to minimize costs to the grant award. Only the following types of civic or community organization membership costs are allowable: Blended Learning Grant Program and/or Math Innovation Zones-related conferences.

Note Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the cost of Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences Justification form, refer to the Administering a Grant page.

Out-of-State Travel Out-of-state travel costs: ⊠may be funded under this grant program

Note Out-of-state travel costs should be minimal. Travel costs are allowable as long as the expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items are only incurred by employees on official business of the grantee and follow the grantee's regular business operations and written travel policy. Out-of-State Travel will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Out-of-State Travel Justification form, refer to the Administering a Grant page

Travel Costs

Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members Travel costs for officials such as the executive director, superintendent, or board members May/ be funded under the grant program

Only the following travel costs are allowable for these positions Only for superintendents or executive directors in a role directly associated with the fulfillment of the Fidelity of Implementation requirement of the BLGP.

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

A - Contracted Services: funding to contract with an approved online curriculum vendor (required) for technical assistance and training and for an approved implementation vendor (optional) to support implementation of the blended model.

B – Supplies and Other Programming Costs: funding to support implementation of the blended programming, including licenses, technology, supplies related to blended learning, and personnel expenses.

General Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds

In general, refer to the Budgeting Cost Guidance Handbook on the <u>Administering a Grant</u> page for unallowable costs

Field trips, Advisory Council, Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization, Nonemployee costs for conferences, Stipends for non-employees, travel for students to conferences (does not include field trips).

In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this grant may include but are not limited to the following:

In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this grant may include but are not limited to the following:

⊠Debt service (lease-purchase)

 \boxtimes Audit services for state-funded grants

FEDERAL GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Equitable Access and Participation

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *Equitable Access and Participation*. This requirement: Does not apply to this grant program

Private Nonprofit School Participation

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *Private Nonprofit School Participation*. This requirement: Does not apply to this grant program

Maintenance of Effort

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *Maintenance of Effort*. This requirement: Does not apply to this grant program

SCORING AND REVIEW

This section provides information on the scoring and review of grant applications.

Grant Review and Funding Criteria

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, GRANT Review Criteria.

All eligible LEA's grant applications will be evaluated in the following manner:

Awards will be prioritized separately for Math and RLA. The first priority is LEAs who are in year 2 or 3 of core product implementation as evidenced by CRIMSI year participation. The next priority level will be those LEAs implementing the core material in 23-24 and participating in the CRIMSI blended cohort. The third priority level is for LEAs who went through the State Approved Vendor List (SAVL) process in 22-23 for the corresponding subject. The final priority level is for LEAs implementing a core math product starting in 23-24 that includes a supplemental blended product.

Priority Level	Math (up to 10m)	RLA (up to 4m)
1	 CRIMSI participants in 21-22 or 22-23 planning to use: Eureka Math and Zearn K-5 Eureka Math and ST Math K-5 	 CRIMSI participants in 21-22 or 22-23 planning to use: Amplify TX and Amplify Reading (K-5) Amplify TX and Other approved products (K-5)
2	 CRIMSI 23-24 Blended Cohorts using: Eureka Math and ST Math Eureka Math and Zearn K-5 	 CRIMSI 23-24 Blended Cohorts using: Amplify TX and Amplify Reading (K-5) Amplify TX and Other <u>approved</u> products (K-5)
3	 SAVL participants in 22-23 planning to use: Eureka Math and Zearn<u>K-5</u> Eureka Math and ST Math 	 SAVL participants in 22-23 planning to use: Amplify TX and Amplify Reading (K-5) Amplify TX and Other <u>approved</u> products (K-5)
4	CRIMSI 23-24 Blended Cohorts using:Carnegie Math and Mathia 6-8	

LEAs will be ranked within each priority level by percent of student population identified as economically disadvantaged and awarded accordingly. In the case of a tie, with any resulting LEAs with matching economically disadvantaged numbers, LEAs will be ranked by percentage of K-8 student population participating in blended learning across the entire LEA.

If an LEA is applying for both math and RLA awards, prioritization levels for math and RLA grants will be considered independently.

Priority Level	Math (up to 10m)	RLA (up to 4m)
1	 CRIMSI participants in 21-22 or 22-23 planning to use: Eureka Math and Zearn K-5 Eureka Math and ST Math K-5 	 CRIMSI participants in 21-22 or 22-23 planning to use: Amplify TX and Amplify Reading (K-5) Amplify TX and Other approved products (K-5)
2	 CRIMSI 23-24 Blended Cohorts using: Zearn K-5 + ST Math Eureka Math and ST Math Eureka Math and Zearn K-5 	 CRIMSI 23-24 Blended Cohorts using: Amplify TX and Amplify Reading (K-5) Amplify TX and Other approved products (K-5)
3	 SAVL participants in 22-23 planning to use: Eureka Math and Zearn K-5 Eureka Math and ST Math 	 SAVL participants in 22-23 planning to use: Amplify TX + Amplify Reading (K-5) Amplify TX + Other approved products (K-5)
4	CRIMSI 23-24 Blended Cohorts using:Carnegie Math and Mathia 6-8	

The maximum award is \$400,000 if awarded math OR RLA and \$500,000 if awarded math AND RLA.

LEAs will be ranked within each priority level by percent of student population identified as economically disadvantaged and awarded accordingly. In the case of a tie, with any resulting LEAs with matching economically disadvantaged numbers, LEAs will be ranked by percentage of K-8 student population participating in blended learning across the entire LEA.

If an LEA is applying for both math and RLA awards, prioritization levels for math and RLA grants will be considered independently.

Maximum award is \$400,000 if awarded math OR RLA and \$500,000 if awarded math AND RLA

Oral Interviews for Funding

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *GRANT Oral Interviews for Funding*. Does not apply to this grant program

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