

A photograph of a female teacher with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt, sitting on the floor and reading a book to a group of young students. The students are also sitting on the floor, looking at the book. They are in a classroom setting with bookshelves filled with books and blue storage bins in the background. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

**General Webinar  
LASO | Learning Acceleration  
Support Opportunities Grant**

# Welcome and Thank you for Joining Today!



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# Objectives and FYIs for Today's Webinar

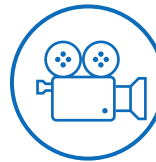
## Objective

- Provide an overview of Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) grant
- Share application timeline and key components
- Preview key resources available
- Close out with next steps and upcoming opportunities

## FYIs



For questions, please drop them in the **Question and Answer** box in Zoom. Q/A will be posted [LASO website](#) by EOW.



This **recording and these slides will be posted** on [LASO website](#) shortly after this webinar concludes.



For follow up questions, please **email** [LASO@tea.texas.gov](mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov)



## Overview of LASO grants



## This winter, TEA will offer Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) grants

Based on lessons learned from TCLAS, TEA is attempting to continue offering streamlined, consolidated grant applications, focused on a few grant programs that are bundled and that help accelerate academic gains.

**~\$110M**

in services and  
supports

**8**

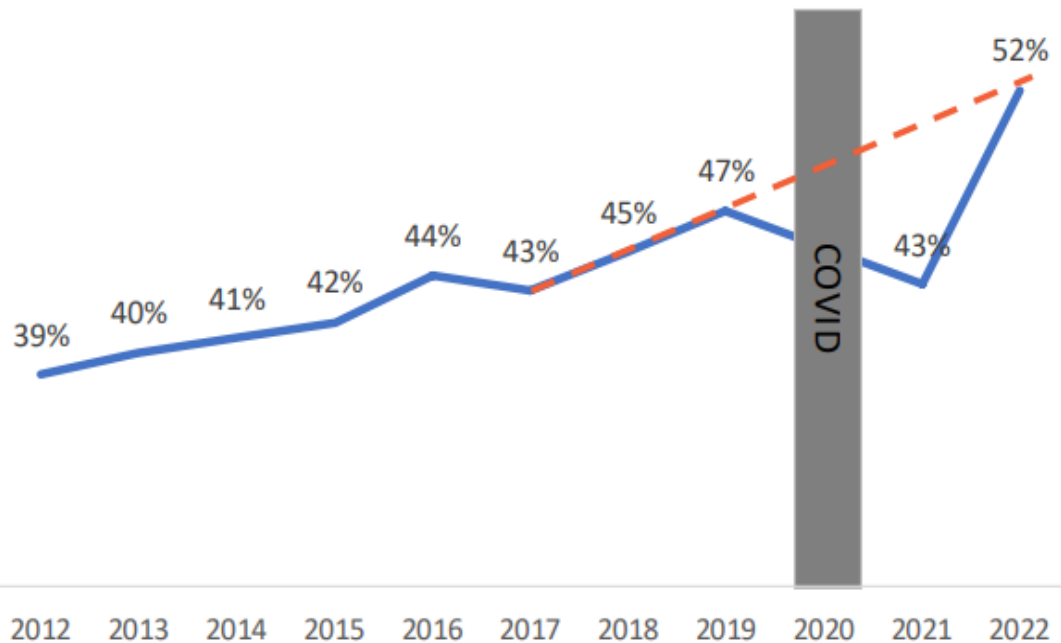
TEA initiatives to  
support learning  
acceleration and  
innovation

**1**

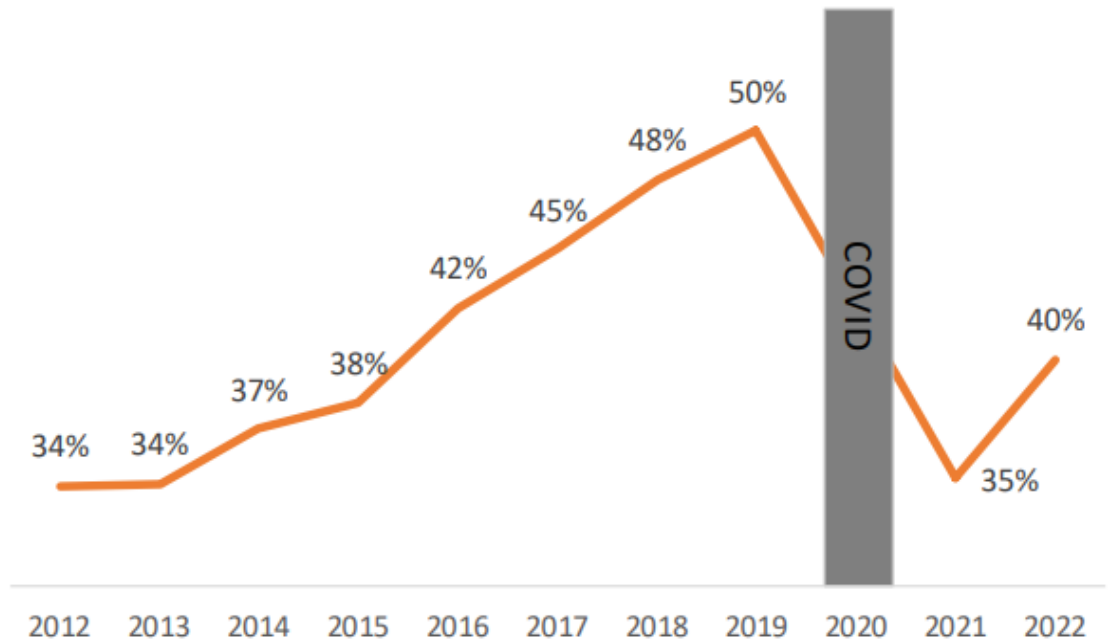
LEA program  
application to  
access funding

# While we have seen a rebound in STAAR RLA results, continued attention is needed toward both Reading and Math to be able to accelerate learning

**Percent of Students that Met Grade Level or Above in Reading Language Arts (Grades 3-8, English I & II)**



**Percent of Students that Met Grade Level or Above in Math (Grades 3-8 and Algebra I)**



1. Includes STAAR 3-8 Reading, English I and English II EOC Assessments 2. Includes STAAR 3-8 Mathematics, Algebra I EOC Assessment Note: Results for grades 3-5 combine assessments given in Spanish and English. Results exclude STAAR-M, STAAR-L, STAAR-A, STAAR Alternate, STAAR Alternate 2 during any years they were offered. Participation in STAAR math and reading assessments in 2021 was 86%. Spring 2021 STAAR results are for learning and recovery planning only – no SSI grade promotion requirements or ratings for districts or campuses. There is no 2020 STAAR data because of cancellation of STAAR in spring 2020. | Source: 2012-2021 Spring STAAR Data

## Accelerated Learning Strategies

### Strategic Planning



**Strategic planning and performance management** to prioritize, launch, and continuously improve learning acceleration strategies

### Instructional Materials



Rigorous, **high-quality instructional materials** designed to make up ground and master grade level TEKS

### Teacher Pipelines



**Talent pipelines that support teachers** to deliver excellence in the classroom, getting more than 1 year of growth in 1 year

### More Time



**More time** for the students most in need, including expanding instructional time in the summer and with targeted **tutoring**

### Innovative School Models



**Innovative school models** to incorporate all aspects of the learning acceleration framework

# LASO will provide 8 grant opportunities embedded in three learning acceleration strategies



## Instructional Materials

### Strong Foundations Implementation Supports

Ready to Implement in SY23-24

*\*K-5 Math/RLA high quality instructional material planning support*

### Strong Foundations Planning Supports

Ready to plan in SY23-24

*\*K-5 Math/RLA high quality instructional material planning support*

### Technology Lending Grant

Ready to Implement in SY23-24

*\*Tablets, hardware, and internet hotspots to provide access to digital instructional materials*

### Blended Learning Grant

Ready to Implement in SY23-24

*\*Math/RLA licenses for blended learning products*



## More Time

### ADSY Planning and Execution Program - Summer

Ready to Implement in SY23-24

*\*PreK-5; One year planning support to design summer learning program*



## Innovative School Models

### P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School)

Planning Year | SY 23-24

Implementation Year | SY 24-25

### ECHS (Early College High School)

Planning Year | SY 23-24




Implementation Year | SY 24-25

### SAF School Action Fund

Ready to plan in SY23-24



# Overview of Included Supports

Learning Acceleration Strategy	Program Grant Name	Overview of Support
 <b>Instructional Materials</b>	Strong Foundations Implementation Supports	Provides in-kind supports for pre-implementation planning, as well as <b>content and product specific professional learning</b> for teachers, coaches, and administrators on effectively implementing HQIM.
	Strong Foundations Planning Supports	Provides support to LEAs to develop a <b>strong instructional framework in math or literacy</b> and prepares LEAs to either create a plan for instructional materials adoption to select HQIM or supports LEAs in planning for implementation with HQIM they may already have. Additionally, LEAs will have access to trainings to support creating systems to effectively manage instruction at the district level.
	Technology Lending Grant	Provides grant funds to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide students the <b>equipment</b> necessary to access and use <b>digital instructional materials</b> at school and at home.
	Blended Learning Grant	Provides supports to <b>plan and implement a high-quality blended learning model</b> in math (through Math Innovation Zones - MIZ) and/or reading language arts (RLA) aligned with a TEA open education resource (OER) core curriculum.
 <b>More Time</b>	ADSY Planning and Execution Program - Summer	Provides support for a year-long planning process to <b>design a research-based summer program</b> that enables districts to strengthen implementation of Additional Days School Year (ADSY) funding.
 <b>Innovative School Models</b>	PTECH- Pathway in Technology Early College	Provides campuses an opportunity to <b>plan to build a Pathway in Technology Early College High School</b> and offers opportunities for students to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously earning industry certifications, and/or an associate degree
	ECHS- Early College High School	Provides campuses an opportunity to build an Early College High School within their district. Early College High Schools and offers opportunities for targeted supports through <b>rigorous instruction and accelerated postsecondary courses</b>
	School Action Fund	Provides technical assistance, resources, and grant funds to <b>support school actions</b> for individual campuses serving Title I Comprehensive Schools and Targeted Schools,



## Estimated LASO funding and award ranges

Grant Program	Estimated Total Funding Available	Estimated Range of award	Estimated Number of Awards
Strong Foundations Implementation Supports	~60 Million*	In-kind	75-175 LEAs (will vary based on size of LEAs)
Strong Foundations Planning Supports	~15 Million*	~ Up to \$400K	50-250 LEAs (will vary based on size of LEA)
PTECH- Pathway in Technology Early College	~1 Million	~ Up to 100K	10 LEAs
ECHS- Early College High School	~1 Million	~ Up to 100K	10 LEAs
School Action Fund	~9.5 Million	~ Up to 500K	30 campuses
Technology Lending Grant	~11 Million	~ Up to 225K	50-100 LEAs
Blended Learning Grant	~9 Million	~ Up to 500K	25- 50 LEAs
ADSY Planning and Execution Program - Summer	~1-3 Million*	In- Kind	25-50 LEAs

\*exploring additional funding opportunities for direct grant funds

## Aspects remaining the same between TCLAS and LASO

<b>Vision and Purpose</b>	<p>TEA is continuing to offer streamlined, consolidated grant application, focused on a few grant programs that can be bundled to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help <b>accelerate academic gains</b></li> <li>• promote <b>LEA's strategic prioritization and decision making</b></li> <li>• increase access by <b>lowering the lift on LEAs</b> with a single user-friendly program application</li> </ul>
<b>Application Format</b>	<p>One Qualtrics Program Application  Award acceptance and budgeting in the eGrants portal  * For future iteration, we are exploring options of OneSystem that provides one e-platform for both application and budget submissions</p>
<b>Learning Acceleration Strategy and Key lever</b>	<p>LASO will continue to be anchored in the 3/5 learning acceleration strategies and 3 key levers to support schools and accelerate learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceleration strategies   Instructional Materials, More Time, and Innovative School Models</li> <li>• Key levers   Support teachers, Provide rigorous instructional Materials, provide more time for targeted instruction</li> </ul>



# Aspects that are different between TCLAS and LASO

## We have designed LASO cycle to respond to feedback from TCLAS

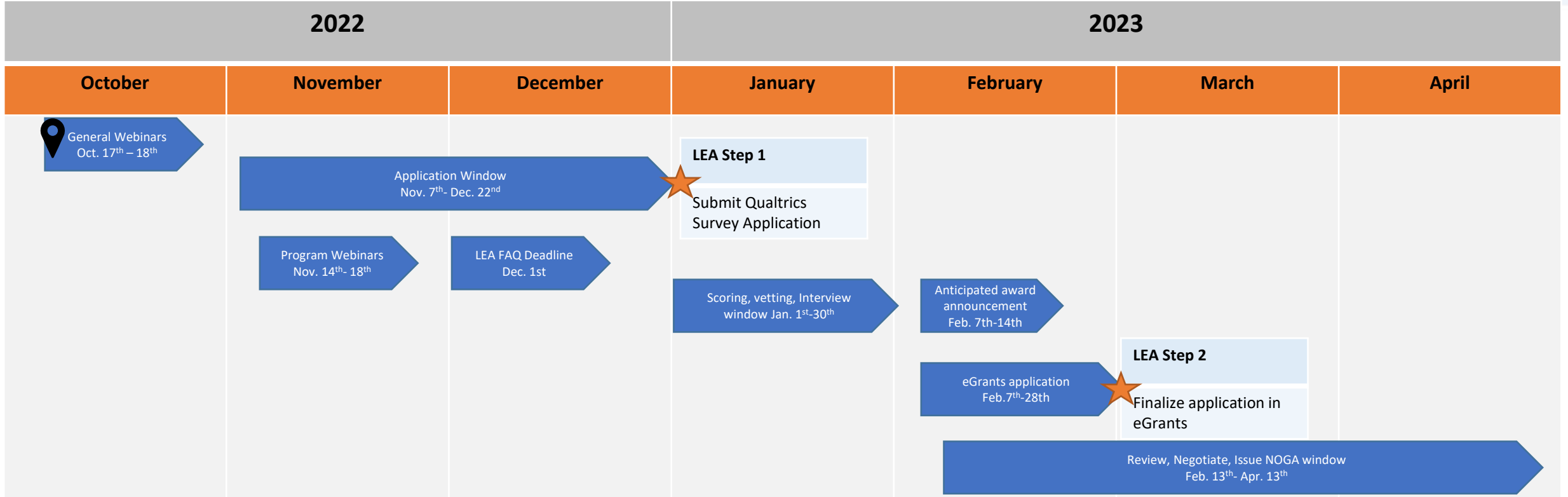
Category	TCLAS	LASO Cycle Improvements
Longer Application Window	32 days	45 days
More District-friendly Timing	August (coincided with the start of the school)	November (more ideal timing considering LEA schedules)
Office Hours for Application Support	Optional provided on need per basis, varying by TCLAS decision	Provided consistently across the board for the LASO grants
Interview Period	NA	Two-way opportunity to ensure program is a good fit for LEA before final decisions (interviews provided based on scoring)
Grant Process	Discretionary, non-competitive grant application	Informal discretionary competitive grant application, with selection based on a mix of qualitative and quantitative scored criteria, offering an opportunity to consider qualitative criteria such as readiness for program
Change requests and declines	Were available	Is not advisable under the Informal discretionary competitive grant process

- TCLAS was unique in the aspect of the funding source (ESSER) and the speed at which we were operating to distribute the funding under emergency grant procedures.
- Therefore, to accommodate the unique circumstances of TCLAS, change requests and decline options were provided to LEAs
- With LASO, we are no longer operating under the unique circumstances of TCLAS, and we are returning to the traditional grant process to continue to anchor in equity and fairness
- LASO will be anchored in the Informal discretionary competitive grant process
  - Declines and change requests are not advisable in typical competitive process
  - If declines are requested, they will be considered on a case-by-case basis for the LEAs and could raise the LEA's federal grant risk level in the coming year



# **Application Timeline, Key Components, and Resources**

# Timeline and Application Process



### Key Considerations

- **Application** | opens on November 7<sup>th</sup> and closes on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59pm. The LEAs have 45 days to complete the application for the grants that they wish to apply.
- **Scoring and interview** | opens Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>- Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. This is the window for TEA to score the applications and reach out to LEAs for interviews if the score meets the threshold. The intent of the interview is to provide a two-way opportunity to determine readiness and fit.
- **NOGA** | There is a 60-day window for NOGA issuing. The process will start on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> and culminate on Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>. LEAs can receive their NOGA at any time between that window. Note, the NOGA can only be issued once the LEAs certifies and submits the budget in the e-grants system. Therefore, if there is a delay in LEAs submission, that may impact the NOGA date.

## LASO Website

### Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO)

◀ Back to TCLAS Website

### What is the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities?

The Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities is the next iteration of a universal consolidated application cycle that strategically batches grant funding opportunities that are supporting with continued learning acceleration and innovation opportunities.

### 2022-2023 Winter Grant Opportunities

LASO program grants will be focused on two of the five **learning acceleration strategies**: Instructional Materials and Innovative School Models

Strategic Planning	Instructional Materials	Teacher Pipelines	More Time	Innovative School Models
Strategic planning and performance management to prioritize, launch, and continuously improve learning acceleration strategies	Rigorous, <b>high-quality instructional materials</b> designed to make up ground and master grade level TEKS	Talent pipelines that support teachers to deliver excellence in the classroom, getting more than 1 year of growth in 1 year	<b>More time</b> for the students in most need, including expanding instructional time in the summer and with targeted <b>tutoring</b>	<b>Innovative school models</b> to incorporate all of the learning acceleration framework

Provides all LASO related key information  
[LASO website](#)

## LASO Grant Overview One- Pager

<b>School Action Fund</b>	
<b>High Level Program Description</b>	The SAF grant provides technical assistance, resources, and grant funds to support school actions for individual campuses. School districts also receive support in adopting a broader continuous improvement strategy to improve schools and provide parents and families with the schools and programs they want and need.
<b>Key Program Commitments To Consider</b>	<p><i>Note   Intended to provide key program commitments, not an exhaustive list of program assurances or requirements.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>School Action Selection</b>   The LEA will select one of the eligible school actions and related models (restart, create a new school, redesign, or reassign).</li> <li><b>Commitment to a Whole School Action</b>   The LEA will complete a whole school model action, which may require changes to current school approach to staffing, scheduling, curriculum, instruction, culture, and other aspects of the school model (depending on model selection).</li> <li><b>Impactful School Leader Release Time</b>   The LEA must craft methods to ensure campus leaders are guaranteed in-school release time to design, plan, implement, and shepherd the work of school actions for their schools and communities.</li> <li><b>Project Management</b>   Districts will identify a qualified Project Manager. The applicant may use grant funds or other funds for this position.</li> <li><b>HQIM</b>   LEAs will commit to selecting, adopting, and implementing with fidelity high-quality instructional materials to be integrated into the design and implementation of the chosen action.</li> <li><b>Eligibility</b>   Districts may apply for a school action at a Title I-serving Comprehensive OR Targeted campus. Districts may also opt to create a new school that will be Title I and prioritize students zoned for comprehensive/targeted campuses. Campuses with a School Action Fund grant in 2019 or later are not eligible.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible applicants are LEAs serving Title I Comprehensive Schools and Targeted Schools, based on school year 2021-2022 ratings</li> <li>For new schools, there must be clear intent to obtain Title I status for the SY 2024-2025</li> <li>A campus may not have received funding from the 2019-2020 School Action Fund (SAF) Planning grant or any subsequent School Action Fund grants, or a TCLAS Decision 10 grant</li> <li>Applicants pursuing a SAF implementation grant may not receive concurrent funding from the 2021-2023 Effective Schools Framework-Focused Support (ESF-FS) grant</li> </ul>
<b>Approximate Program Timeline</b>	Begin Date   March 2023 End Date   June 2024
<b>Funding Estimates</b>	Estimated total funding available   ~9.5 million Estimated range of award   LEAs can receive up to ~\$500K Estimated number of Awards   30 campuses

Provides high level [overview](#) of program description, key commitments, eligibility, timeline, and funding  
 Available on [LASO website](#) on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>

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Provides [detailed](#) information about the grant  
 Available on [LASO website](#) on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>



- Select the ESC region that serves the LEA.
- The LEAs name will auto-populate based on the region selected.

## Overview

### General Information

Please select your region and LEA from the list below.

ESC Region

LEA Name and CDN

- We recognize that multiple people at the LEA will be completing different parts of the application.
- Please enter one primary contact. This is the contact that we will reach out to for any follow ups or to schedule the interview if need be.

## Overview

### Contact Information

Enter the name, title, and role of the LEA employee, who is completing this application on behalf of the LEA. (Note- we recognize that there may be multiple roles at the LEA completing different sections of this application. Please provide one primary contact to enter).

LEA Employee Name

LEA Employee Title

LEA Employee Email

- LEAs can choose multiple grants to apply for.
- We recommend that the LEAs review the key program requirements outlined in the [LASO one-pager](#) and the overall program guidelines and then considering LEAs needs, priorities, and internal capacity, apply to the best fitting grant program(s) in service of meeting the LEAs needs

### Summary of Program Grants

Check all the program grants that your LEA wants to apply for.

- Strong Foundations Implementation Supports
- Strong Foundations Planning Supports
- Early College High School (ECHS)
- Pathway in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)
- School Action Fund (SAF)
- Tech Lending Grant (TLG)
- Blended Learning Grant (BLG)
- Additional Days School Year (ADSY)

← →

- Official submission of this application requires superintendent signature.
- In rare case that the Superintendent is unable to sign, LEA should email [LASO@tea.texas.gov](mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov)

## Closing

### Signature

Official submission of this application requires a Superintendent signature. Application cannot be considered submitted without the formal signature from the Superintendent.

If the Superintendent is unable to sign because they are on leave or in role transition, please email at [LASO@tea.texas.gov](mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov).

If you are the superintendent, please proceed to the Question 1 below by selecting yes and proceed to submitting the application.

If you are not a Superintendent, pause on submitting this application, email [LASO@tea.texas.gov](mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov) to identify the LEA's grantee official who can submit the application in superintendent's absence. Once the name of the grantee official has been identified, then return back to this page select 'No' for Question 1 and answer Question 2 to submit the application.

1. Are you a Superintendent

Yes

No

Note to the Superintendent :

By signing this application, I acknowledge that I have read the inputs in this application and confirm all the responses included in this application.

x

SIGN HERE

clear

- We recognize that this window runs up against the winter break in some cases. Our intent here is to provide as much time and a longer runway to application completion as possible.
- Application **unique link will be emailed to LEA superintendent on November 7<sup>th</sup>**.
- In case, if the LEA is unable to receive the application link in the superintendent email, LEAs can refer to a **form** posted on LASO website (on Nov. 7th) to acquire a new link.
- A **PDF** of the application will also be posted on the LASO website on November 7<sup>th</sup>. However, formal submission of the application will be through the Qualtrics application survey.



- We are in the process of confirming all approved vendors for each LASO grant
- A state-approved vendor list will be published on the LASO website on November 7th when the application opens
- The list will share which vendors will support which grants and provide additional information such as grant-specific supports that will be provided by the vendors and their previous work in Texas





## **Next Steps and Upcoming Opportunities**

## Path Forward and upcoming opportunities

- ❑ **Visit [LASO website](#)** to orient yourself with preliminary grant information to start to have key strategic conversations with your internal teams.
- ❑ **Read [LASO one pager](#)** to understand the preliminary grant information, i.e. program description, key commitments, eligibility, timeline, and funding.
- ❑ **Communicate** and share the information with your internal teams to support with decision making .
- ❑ **Register** for the Program Specific Webinars scheduled to take place in the Week of November 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration links can be found on [LASO website](#)

Date	Program Specific Webinar
November 14th, 2022	8:00am - 9:00am   ECHS - Early College High School (Option 1) 9:00am - 10:00am   P-TECH - Pathway in Technology Early College High School (Option 1) 10:00am - 11:00am   Strong Foundation Implementation (Option 1) 11:00am - 12:00pm   Blended Learning Grant (Option 1) 2:00pm - 3:00pm   Technology Lending Grant (Option 1) 3:00pm - 4:00pm   School Action Fund (Option 1)
November 15th, 2022	1:00pm - 2:00pm   ADSY Planning and Execution Program - Summer (Option 1) 2:00pm - 3:00pm   Technology Lending Grant (Option 1)
November 16th, 2022	10:00am - 11:00am   ADSY Planning and Execution Program - Summer (Option 2)
November 17th, 2022	8:00am - 9:00am   Strong Foundation Planning (Option 1) 10:00am - 11:00am   Blended Learning Grant (Option 2) 2:00pm - 3:00pm   Strong Foundation Implementation (Option 2)
November 18th, 2022	8:00am - 9:00am   Strong Foundation Planning (Option 2) 11:00am - 12:00pm   School Action Fund (Option 2) 1:00pm - 2:00pm   ECHS - Early College High School (Option 2) 2:00pm - 3:00pm   P-TECH - Pathway in Technology Early College High School (Option 2)



- This **recording and these slides will be posted on LASO website shortly after this webinar concludes.**
- **Q/A captured during this webinar session will be posted on the LASO website by the end of the week.**

For general follow up questions, email [LASO@tea.texas.gov](mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov). For program specific questions, please email the contacts below:

<b>Strong Foundations Implementation Supports</b>	<b>Valerie Johnson</b> Director Instructional Materials & Implementation <a href="mailto:strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov">strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov</a> ; 512-463-9696
<b>Strong Foundations Planning Supports</b>	<b>Shay Wise-Garland</b> Director of ESC High Quality Instructional Materials <a href="mailto:strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov">strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov</a>
<b>Technology Lending Grant</b>	<b>Lisa Walker</b> Digital Content Manager <a href="mailto:Techlending@tea.texas.gov">Techlending@tea.texas.gov</a> ; 512-463-9601
<b>ADSY Planning and Execution Program - Summer</b>	<b>Brian Doran</b> Director of Expanded Learning Models <a href="mailto:adsy@tea.texas.gov">adsy@tea.texas.gov</a> ; 512-936-6066
<b>Blended Learning Grant</b>	<b>Michael Strange</b> Blended Learning Program Manager <a href="mailto:Michael.strange@tea.texas.gov">Michael.strange@tea.texas.gov</a> ; (512) 463-9616
<b>P-TECH - Pathways in Technology Early College High School</b>	<b>Mary Hausle</b> CCRSM Coordinator <a href="mailto:ccrsm@tea.texas.gov">ccrsm@tea.texas.gov</a> ; 512-463-9371
<b>ECHS - Early College High School</b>	<b>Mary Hausle</b> CCRSM Coordinator <a href="mailto:ccrsm@tea.texas.gov">ccrsm@tea.texas.gov</a> ; 512-463-9371
<b>School Action Fund</b>	<b>Laura Hyatt</b> School Action Fund Manager <a href="mailto:Laura.Hyatt@tea.Texas.gov">Laura.Hyatt@tea.Texas.gov</a>



**Thank You!**