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

P-TECH Planning and Implementation Program Guidelines



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Grant Program Guidelines 2022

Grant Name as it will appear on the TEA Grant	P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant
Opportunities Page	
Application Due Date	11:59 p.m. Central Time, December 22, 2022
Program Authority	General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 64,
	87th Texas Legislature, and Texas Education Code
	(TEC), §§29.551-29.556 and §29.908.

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).

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.

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.

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	\$1,000,000
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	0%
Amount of federal funds	\$0
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal	100%
sources	
Amount of nonfederal funds	\$1,000,000

APPLICANT ASSISTANCE

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

Contact for Clarifying Information

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, TEA Contacts.

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Program manager name	Mary Hausle
Program manager title	CCRSM Coordinator
Program manager email	ccrsm@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	512-463-6060

Errata Notices

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, 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; 9:00-10:00am	Webinar schedule
November 18, 2022; 2:00-2:00	See the General and Fiscal Guidelines Applicants'
	Conference/Webinar
	Webinar registration link can be found at LASO
	website
	Webinars will be both live and recorded
 December 1, 2022	FAQ deadline
	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
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 <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u> , Grant
	Application Due Date and Time
December 28, 2022- January 30, 2023	Application review period, including interviews if
	necessary
	See <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u> , Grant Review
	Process
February 6, 2023	Anticipated award announcement

Date	Event
February 21, 2023	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding)
	See <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u> , 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, Article III, Rider 64, 87th Texas Legislature, and Texas Education Code (TEC), §§29.551-29.556 and §29.908.

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 P-TECH grant offers campuses an opportunity to plan to build a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) within their district. P-TECH Academies offer opportunities for students to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously earning industry certifications, and/or an associate degree on or before the sixth anniversary of a student's first day of high school and at no cost to the student.

The P-TECH grant requires a campus to maintain a partnership with an institution of higher education (IHE) that will serve to provide dual credit opportunities to the P-TECH academy and with a business/industry partner to provide work-based support

Eligible Applicants

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *Eligibility To Apply* LEAs that:

• Serve students in Grades 9–12; or

- Will begin serving students in Grade 9 or students in Grades 9 and 10 in the first year of implementation (2024–2025) and will progressively scale up by adding at least one grade level per year after the first year of implementation
- Recipients of the 2018–2019 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant, 2019-2020 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant, 2018–2020 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant, the 2019-2021 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant, the 2020-2022 P-TECH and ICIA Planning and Implementation Grant, the 2021 – 2023 P-TECH Planning and Implementation grant, the 2021-2023 CCRSM P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant, the TCLAS 1.0 Decision 9a P-TECH Planning and Implementation or 9b P-TECH Success or the 2020-2022 P-TECH Success Grant are not eligible for this grant.

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*

- Letter of Support from their Institution of Higher Education Partner and
- Letter of support from a business or industry partner.
- Application Narrative Questions
 - Program of Study

Describe the course of study/crosswalk that the school is planning to offer and/or how it expands upon current offerings to enhance and build an academic pathway. Describe how the course of study will enable a student to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses and identify degrees/certificate/certifications to be earned. Describe how the postsecondary credentials earned meet local economic needs.

• Strategic Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education

Describe how the campus and district intends to work with and secure the partnerships with an Institution of Higher Education and align the needs of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that addresses topics such as but not limited to: Curriculum Alignment, Instructional Materials, Instructional Calendar, Courses of Study, Student Enrollment and Attendance, Grading Periods and Policies and Administration of Statewide Assessment Instruments.

o Strategic Partnerships with Business and Industry

P-TECH schools must enter into a MOU with regional industry or business partners in Texas and must meet the following guidelines: provide 100% of participating students access to appropriate work-based education at every grade level, address regional workforce needs, the industry/business partner will give to a student who receives work-based training or education from the partner with a P-TECH first priority in interviewing for any jobs for which the student is qualified that are available on the student's completion of the program, and review the MOU at least every two years and update as necessary. Name the regional industry or business partner and describe how the proposed program will meet the requirements for the partnership with the industry/business partner.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND ASSURANCES

This section describes statutory, program, and other eligibility requirements for applicants:

- 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*.

- 1. P-TECH campuses must establish recruitment and enrollment processes and requirements that will not exclude or discourage the enrollment of any of the subpopulations of at-risk students, including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency or who have failed a state administered assessment.
- 2. P-TECH campuses must provide for a TEA CTE program of study that enables a participating student in grade levels 9–12 to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses. Describe the course of study that the school is planning to offer and how it expands upon current offerings. Include how the course of study will enable a student to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses and identify crosswalks, sequences of courses, degrees/certificates/certifications earned, and work-based education that will be available to students at every grade level. Describe how the selected course of study will address regional workforce needs.
- 3. P-TECH campuses must enter into an articulation agreement with IHEs that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.25. The articulation agreement must provide a participating student access to postsecondary educational and training opportunities at an IHE and must address all the items below:
 - Curriculum alignment
 - Instructional materials
 - Instructional calendar
 - Programs/courses of study
 - Student enrollment and attendance
 - Grading periods and policies
 - Administration of statewide assessments
 - Name the IHE and describe how the proposed program will meet the requirements for the partnership with the IHE.

- 4. P-TECH campuses must enter into a MOU with regional industry or business partners in Texas and must meet the following guidelines:
 - Provide 100% of participating students access to appropriate work-based education at every grade level
 - Address regional workforce needs
 - The industry/business partner will give a student who receives work-based training or education from the partner with a P-TECH first priority in interviewing for any jobs for which the student is qualified that are available on the student's completion of the program
 - Review the MOU at least every two years and update as necessary the name of the regional industry or business partner and describe how the proposed program will meet the requirements for the partnership with the industry/business partner.

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:

- P-TECH campuses must establish a Leadership Design Team to complete the P-TECH Implementation Plan, prepare the campus to begin serving students in the P-TECH program, and provide leadership for the campus regarding P-TECH. Leadership Design Team members are outlined in the <u>P-TECH Blueprint</u>. Describe the current leadership team. Include a list of the individuals and their titles, along with how often the leadership team will meet, the dates of meetings that have already been held, any upcoming meetings, and agenda topics.
- Grantee must develop wrap-around strategies and services involving multiple stakeholders (parents, teachers, counselors, community members, etc.) to strengthen both the academic and social/emotional skills necessary for high school and college readiness and to be successful in rigorous academic and work- based educational experiences. Describe wrap-around strategies and services the campus will offer, as well as the additional strategies and services that are planned to support P-TECH.

Program-Specific Assurances

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

- 1. Required by statute: P-TECH campuses will provide participating students with flexibility in class scheduling and academic mentoring.
- 2. Required by statute: P-TECH campuses will be open enrollment. Enrollment decisions will not be based on state assessment scores, discipline, history, teacher recommendations, minimum grade point average (GPA) or any other criteria that create barriers for student enrollment.
- Required by statute: P-TECH campuses will allow participating students to complete high school and, on or before the sixth anniversary of the date of the student's first day of high school: receive a high school diploma and an associate degree, a two-year postsecondary certificate, or industry certification; and complete work-based education through an internship, apprenticeship, or other job training program.
- 4. Required by statute: P-TECH campuses will be provided at no cost to participating students.

- 5. Required by statute: P-TECH campuses will ensure that a student is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program in proportion to the amount of time spent by the student on high school courses, in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, while completing the program/course of study established by the applicable IHE articulation agreement or Industry/Business Partner memorandum of understanding.
- The P-TECH campus will implement the design elements included within the 6 benchmarks of the P-TECH Blueprint and strive to fulfill the state standard for student success as measured by the outcomes-based measures.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

This section provides detailed information about the grant.

Description of Program

The purpose of the Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH) is to provide students with a smooth transitional experience to postsecondary and the workforce. P-TECH models allow students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously earning industry certifications, level 1 or level 2 certificates, and/or an associate degree on or before the sixth anniversary of a student's first day of high school and at no cost to the student. The hallmark of the P-TECH model is its career focus and the provision of work-based education. P-TECH programs:

- Enroll historically underserved students, targeting at-risk and economically disadvantaged
- Provide students grade 9 through 12 the opportunity to complete a course of study that combines high school and post-secondary courses
- Enable students to earn a high school diploma, along with an associate degree, Level 1 or Level 2 certificate, or industry-based certification within six years
- Offer age-appropriate work-based learning opportunity in every grade level
- Allow students to gain work experience through an internship, apprenticeship, or other job training program
- Align to regional workforce needs, guiding students into high-demand, high-wage careers
- Partner with Texas Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) and regional businesses and industries, giving students access to post-secondary education and workforce training opportunities

The purpose of the P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant is to help eligible applicants who, upon receipt of the grant, will engage in months of P-TECH model planning and implementation with support from the TEA selected technical assistance provider, to establish the foundational components of the P-TECH program.

Grantees who receive the P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant will spend the first months planning to implement the design elements and requirements aligned to the P-TECH Blueprint. The P-TECH program may be established as a whole-campus model, a small stand-alone campus, a school-within-a-school model, or another model as chosen by the campus and approved by TEA. Planning grant funds will be utilized to support campus needs for establishing the foundational implementation elements of P-TECH.

P-TECH campuses establish strong partnership agreements with local business and industry as well as institutions of higher education (IHE). The partners serve on the leadership and advisory team to

provide support and guidance to the P-TECH in resource acquisition, curriculum development, workbased learning, and student/community outreach to ensure a successful academic and career pipeline. In partnership with an IHE, as well as the community and employers, a P-TECH campus provides rigorous academic and work-based learning programs that provide students with clear pathways to regional employment opportunities in response to local workforce needs.

P-TECH campuses are public schools established under the Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.553 (P-TECH) that enable students in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 who are at-risk of dropping out, as defined by the TEC, §29.081, or who wish to accelerate completion of high school, to combine high school courses and college-level courses.

This grant is authorized by the General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 66, 86th Texas Legislature, and Texas Education Code (TEC), §§29.551-29.556 and §29.908.

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: Does not apply to this grant program

PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION MEASURES

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

- Projected student enrollment into the P-TECH program with percentage of demographics: students who are at- risk as defined by PEIMS (TEC 29.081), ethnicity, first-generation college students, English Language Learners, students who are economically disadvantaged, and students who receive special education services.
- 2. Leadership design team members, meeting dates, agendas and meeting minutes (including attendance) posted on the school's website.
- 3. Enrollment guidelines that follow the enrollment requirements outlined in the statutory requirements of this grant and the P-TECH Blueprint.
- 4. Recruitment Plan that includes marketing materials and timelines (in English/Spanish if so required)
- 5. The methods used to obtain input about the implementation of the program from parents, community, business and postsecondary partners, regular activities to educate students, parents, counselors, community, staff and school board members.
- 6. Current signed and dated list of high-demand occupations and programs/courses of study that lead to these occupations that was developed in partnership with the local workforce development board.

- 7. Signed and dated MOU with business partner for the academic year that fulfills the statutory requirements of this grant, and also outlines roles and responsibilities, in-kind match, and work-based education experiences for students in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade.
- 8. Signed and dated MOU and Articulation agreement with an IHE for the academic year that fulfills the statutory requirements of this grant.
- 9. Plan of wrap-around strategies and services to provide academic and social/emotional support for student success to include: a. Academic mentoring and support for intervention and acceleration, b. Counseling, guidance and student advisory services, and c. Social/emotional supports such as parent outreach, connections to social services when needed and peer mentoring.

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 10 grants will be awarded ranging in amounts from \$100,000 to \$100,000.

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: ⊠20% cost share/match

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

⊠ TEA/The authorizing statute limits the amount of direct administrative costs to no more than 10% 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:

 \boxtimes are not permitted

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

Activities and Use of Funds

See the Administering a Grant 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 be funded under the grant program

Only the following types of field trips are allowable:

Field trips relevant to the purposes of P-TECH programming

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 be funded under the grant program

Only the following types of advisory councils are allowable Advisory Council for the purposes of P-TECH programming

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:

Does not apply to this grant program.

Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences

Hosting or sponsoring conferences

I may be funded under the grant program

Conferences must be managed to minimize costs to the grant award.

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 not 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 Relevant in-state P-TECH travel

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Reasonable and necessary items for accomplishing the objectives of the P-TECH grant program.

- Curriculum planning and development
- Materials and supplies for P-TECH
- Convening of advisory council/leadership team including travel
- Limited travel for leadership team to visit exemplary and best practice schools
- Teacher professional development
- Salaries for instructional staff
- Teacher credentialing specifically related to identified programs of study
- Equipment necessary for implementation of identified programs of study
- Career counselor salary
- Salary for dedicated program director/administrator
- Day field trips for P-TECH students to travel to partner IHEs or partner industry sites.
- Extra duty pay for instructors in the programs of study.
- Supplies and materials for advisory council (excluding food, beverage, snacks)

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

- Debt service (lease-purchase)
- Audit services for state-funded grants
- Travel costs for officials
- Hosting/sponsoring conferences
- Cost of membership in civic/community organization
- Tuition and course fees for students
- Instructional materials for students
- Food, beverage, snacks
- Audit services for state-funded grants

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

⊠Debt service (lease-purchase)

Audit services for state-funded grants

FEDERAL GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Equitable Access and Participation

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, 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 <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *Grant Review Criteria*. All eligible LEA's grant applications will be evaluated based on the following categories:

- Enrollment size
- Rural classification
- Participation in the CCRSM Network

If LEA funding requests exceed the amount available for this grant, oral interviews may be used. If used, applicants that receive 70% of the total points available through the sum of the standard and specific review criteria will be invited to attend an oral interview, which will be conducted virtually. Prioritization based on enrollment size, rural classification, and participation in CCRSM Network. Narrative Questions will be scored over 24 points.

Program of Study (8 points)

Describe the course of study/crosswalk that the school is planning to offer and/or how it expands upon current offerings to enhance and build an academic pathway. Describe how the course of study will enable a student to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses and identify degrees/certificate/certifications to be earned. Describe how the postsecondary credentials earned meet local economic needs.

Strategic Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education (8 points)

Describe how the campus and district intends to work with and secure the partnerships with an Institution of Higher Education and align the needs of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that addresses topics such as but not limited to: Curriculum Alignment, Instructional Materials, Instructional Calendar, Courses of Study, Student Enrollment and Attendance, Grading Periods and Policies and Administration of Statewide Assessment Instruments.

Strategic Partnerships with Business and Industry (8 points)

P-TECH schools must enter into a MOU with regional industry or business partners in Texas and must meet the following guidelines: provide 100% of participating students access to appropriate work-based education at every grade level, address regional workforce needs, the industry/business partner will give to a student who receives work-based training or education from the partner with a P-TECH first priority in interviewing for any jobs for which the student is qualified that are available on the student's completion of the program, and review the MOU at least every two years and update as necessary. Name the regional industry or business partner and describe how the proposed program will meet the requirements for the partnership with the industry/business partner.

Oral Interviews for Funding

See the <u>General and Fiscal Guidelines</u>, *Grant Oral Interviews for Funding*. Oral Interview for Funding

During the virtual oral interviews, applicants will have the opportunity to elaborate and be evaluated on their planned partnership with a Texas Institute of Higher Education (IHE), as well as answer any additional questions which the TEA may have to assess their readiness for this grant program. The applicant may reference any documents, including the Program Guidelines and FAQs. If LEA funding requests exceed the amount available for this grant, oral interviews may be used according to the following process. If used, applicants that receive 70% of the total points available through the sum of the standard and specific review criteria will be invited to attend an oral interview, which will be conducted virtually.

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