TEA

School Action Fund (SAF) Webinar
LASO | Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities Grant

Welcome and Thank you for Joining Today!

Chris DeWitt
Director, System Support
Christopher.DeWitt@tea.Texas.gov

Laura Hyatt
Manager, School Action Fund
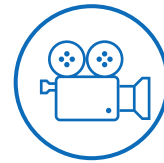Laura.Hyatt@tea.Texas.gov

TEA

Agenda and FYIs for Today's Webinar

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of the Application process and Timeline
3. School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation: Deep Dive
4. Program description, eligibility, key commitments, scoring, interview criteria, allowable expenditures
5. Next Steps and Q&A

Logistics:

Please ask questions and drop them in the **Question and Answer** box in Zoom

This **recording and these slides will be posted** on LASO website at the end of the week 11/18, once all the webinar options have been conducted.

Overview of LASO

School Action Fund is a part of
Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO)

Based on lessons learned from TCLAS, TEA is attempting to continue offering streamlined, consolidated grant applications, focused on a few grant programs that can be bundled and that help accelerate academic gains
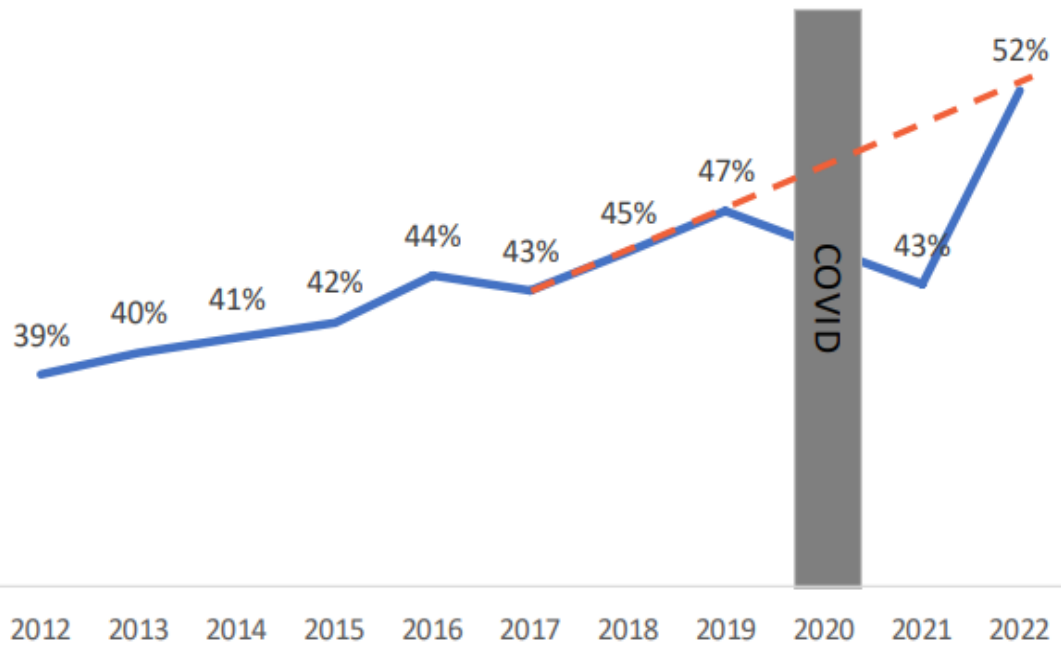
~$110M
in services and supports

8
TEA initiatives to support learning acceleration and innovation

1
LEA program application to access funding

TEA

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)

2012: 39%, 2013: 40%, 2014: 41%, 2015: 42%, 2016: 44%, 2017: 43%, 2018: 45%, 2019: 47%, COVID (2020), 2021: 43%, 2022: 52%

Percent of Students that Met Grade Level or Above in Math (Grades 3-8 and Algebra I)
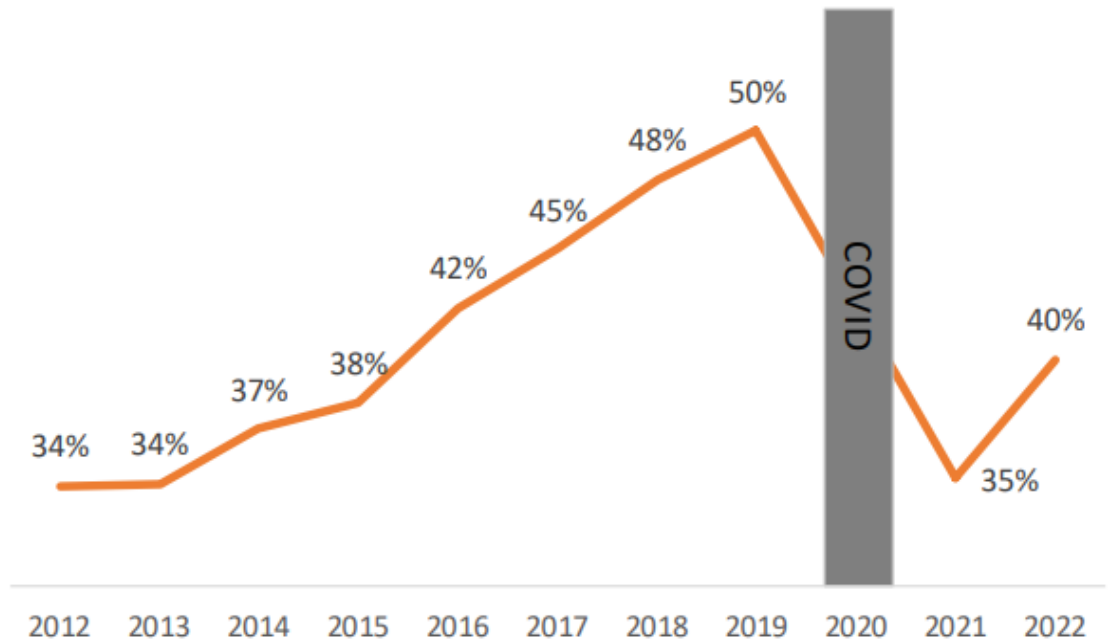
2012: 34%, 2013: 34%, 2014: 37%, 2015: 38%, 2016: 42%, 2017: 45%, 2018: 48%, 2019: 50%, COVID (2020), 2021: 35%, 2022: 40%

LASO cycle will be anchored in Learning Acceleration Strategies

Accelerated Learning Strategies

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

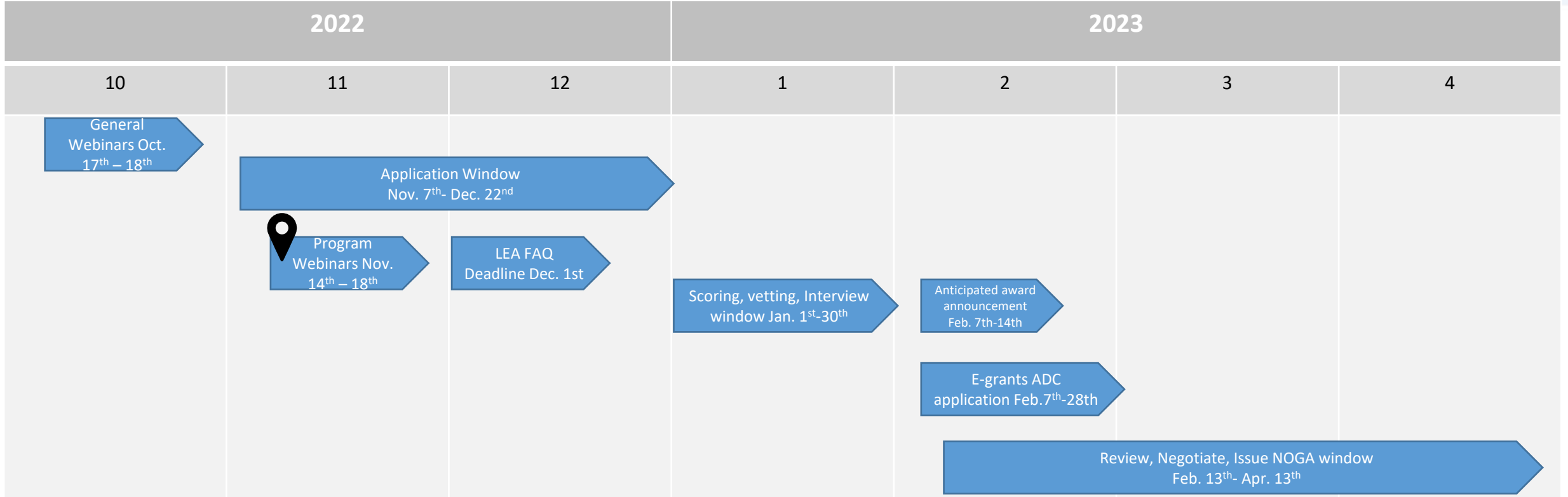**ECHS** (Early College High School)
Planning Year | SY 23-24
Implementation Year | SY 24-25

SAF School Action Fund
Ready to plan in SY23-24

Timeline and Application Process

2022			2023			
10	11	12	1	2	3	4

General Webinars Oct. 17th – 18th

Application Window Nov. 7th- Dec. 22nd

Program Webinars Nov. 14th – 18th

LEA FAQ Deadline Dec. 1st

Scoring, vetting, Interview window Jan. 1st-30th

Anticipated award announcement Feb. 7th-14th

E-grants ADC application Feb.7th-28th

Review, Negotiate, Issue NOGA window Feb. 13th- Apr. 13th

Key Considerations

- **Application** | opens on November 7th and closes on December 22nd 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. 1st- Jan. 30th. 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. 13th and culminate on Apr. 13th. 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.

- 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 was emailed to LEA superintendents on November 7th.**

- If the LEA is unable to receive the application link in the superintendent email, LEAs can refer to a **form** posted on LASO website to acquire a new link.

- A **PDF** of the application was posted on the LASO website on November 7th. However, formal submission of the application will be through the Qualtrics application survey.
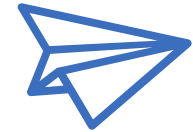
Change Requests and Declines

- TCLAS was unique in the aspect of the funding source (ESSER) and the speed at which we were operating to distribute the funding

- Therefore, to accommodate the unique circumstances of TCLAS, change requests and decline options were provided to LEAs

- Since, with LASO, we are no longer operating under the unique circumstances of TCLAS, we are going back to the traditional grant process for 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

School Action Fund Deep Dive

School Action Fund (SAF): High Level Overview

Innovative School Models

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

Estimated Total Funding Available	~$9.5 Million
Estimated Range of Award	$200,000- $500,000
Estimated Award Numbers	30 campuses
Estimated Timeline	Ready to plan in SY23-24

School Action Fund (SAF): Program Description

Purpose

School Actions are whole-school strategies districts use to meet community needs and address chronic underperformance.

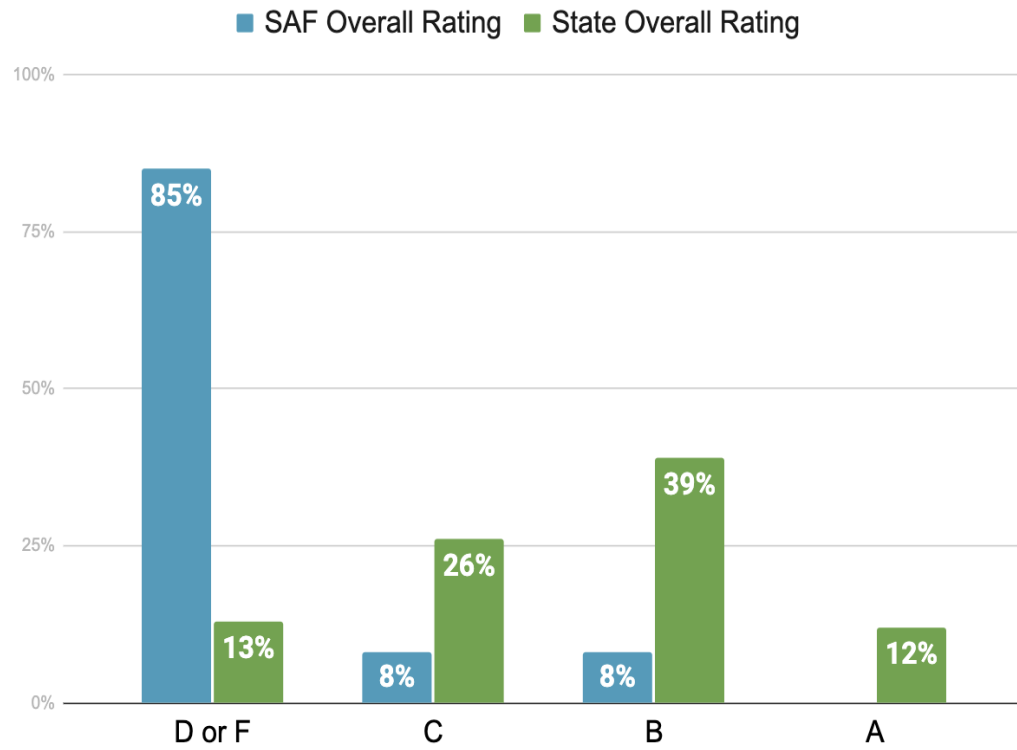The School Action Fund (SAF) supports districts to plan and implement school actions so more students and families have the schools they want, need, and deserve.

School Actions are **comprehensive and bold approaches** through:

- **restarting** an existing school;

- **redesigning** an existing school;

- **creating** a brand-new school; or

- thoughtfully **reassigning** students to higher performing campuses after school closure.

SAF Campuses outpaced the increase in A/B rated campuses across the state

2019

■ SAF Overall Rating ■ State Overall Rating

Rating	SAF Overall Rating	State Overall Rating
D or F	85%	13%
C	8%	26%
B	8%	39%
A		12%

2022

■ SAF Overall Rating ■ State Overall Rating

Rating	SAF Overall Rating	State Overall Rating
Not Rated	23%	7%
C	24%	19%
B	50%	46%
A		28%
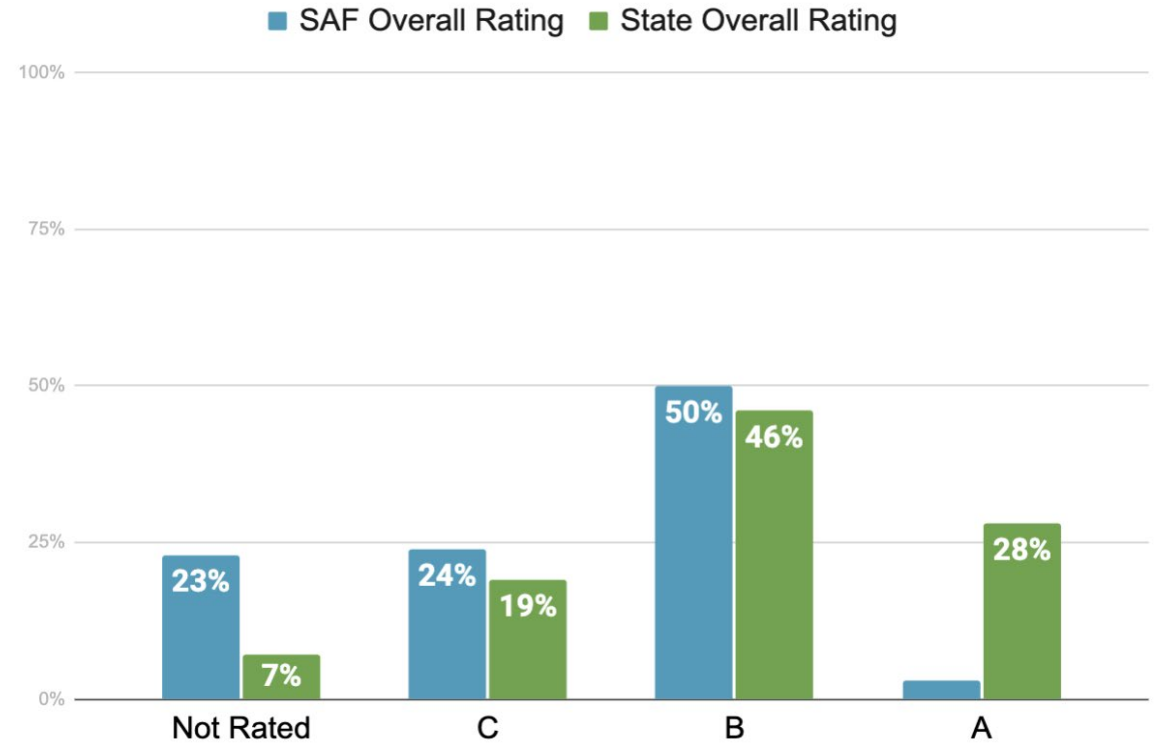
What's Included in a School Action Fund grant?

Technical Assistance

Pre-approved TA providers with deep content expertise to support planning and implementation

Tools & Resources

- Access to tailored tools and resources from TEA
- **Community of practice**, including current and former SAF districts

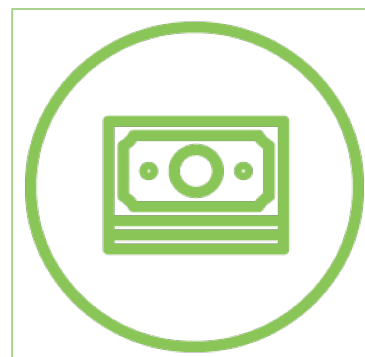## Funding

- **Planning** (1 year): approx. $200k per school
- **Continuation** (2 years): up to $250K-500K per year based on action

Leader Professional Development

Opportunities for future school leaders to participate in action-specific **professional development** or **school design programs**

The Center for School Actions (CSA) works with campuses and LEAs to support strategic decision-making to identify and select best-fit school actions. Visit their website for tools, resources, and webinars, or reach out via email at karen@schoolactions.org.

School Action Fund (SAF): Actions & Models That Meet Student And Family Needs

Restart

Transform struggling schools by installing new leadership and staff and implementing a rigorous turnaround model.

- ACE Planning and Implementation
- Resource
- Turnaround Partnership

*O'Connor ACE ES
Victoria ISD*

*Sam Houston College Prep
Midland ISD*

Reassign

Close a low performing school and support the thoughtful transfer of students into existing A or B schools.

Create New Schools

Create a new school designed to fill a gap in the community.

- District-run
- Texas Partnership-Managed

*McCool Academy,
Lubbock ISD*

*Gus Garcia MS, Edgewood ISD
Partner: Texas A&M San Antonio*

Redesign

Support a school leader to develop and implement a new, innovative model that meets the needs of their community.

- Rural Collaborative Planning and Rural Collaborative Implementation
- Rural within P-20 System
- Blended Learning

*Duncan Collegiate ES
Floydada ISD*

DAVID DANIELS
ELEMENTARY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND MATH

Elements of Successful School Actions

Regardless of action or model, all School Action Fund campuses will include the following elements:

Effective School Framework (ESF) alignment

High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)

Research based instructional strategies (RBIS)

High Impact Tutoring

Extended Day or Year

Campus eligibility is based on

- Title I-serving status
- Targeted or Comprehensive Support designation, based on SY 21_22 rating
- For new schools, there must be clear intent to obtain Title I-serving status for SY 2024_2025
- Not a recipient of
  - 2019-2020 School Action Fund (SAF) Planning grant,
  - any subsequent SAF grant,
  - TCLAS Decision 10 (SAF) grant
- Not a recipient of concurrent Effective Schools Framework-Focused Support (ESF-FS) and SAF grants

Note: The Center for School Actions (CSA) works with campuses and LEAs to support strategic decision-making to identify and select best-fit school actions.

Visit their website for tools, resources, and webinars, or reach out via email at karen@schoolactions.org.

Statutory Requirements

1. Develop comprehensive support and improvement plans under section 1111(d)(1) for schools receiving funds under this section
2. Support schools developing or implementing targeted support and improvement plans under section 1111(d)(2), if funds received under this section are used for such purpose
3. Monitor schools receiving funds under this section, including how the local educational agency will carry out its responsibilities under clauses (iv) and (v) of section 1111(d)(2)(B) if funds received under this section are used to support schools implementing targeted support and improvement plans
4. Use a rigorous review process to recruit, screen, select, and evaluate any external partners with whom the local educational agency will partner
5. Align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under subsection (b)(1)
6. As appropriate, modify practices and policies to provide operational flexibility that enables full and effective implementation of the plans

TEA Program Requirements

The applicant will

- Work in good faith with the TEA-vetted and matched school action Technical Assistance provider and agency-provided technical assistance.
- Identify a qualified Project Manager.
- Provide access for on-site visits to the district and campus by TEA, the technical assistance provider, and its contractors.
- Participate in grant orientation meetings, technical assistance meetings, other periodic meetings of grantees, and sharing of best practices through the TEA program office.
- Commit to, and complete, Lone Star Governance (LSG) training and coaching for all Board Members.
- Have previously planned the action with a TEA-approved Technical Assistance provider if applying for an Implementation grant.

TEA Program Requirements

Applicants selecting "Partner-managed" actions must commit to:

- Adoption of TEA's **Texas Partnership** model authorizing tools and **resources**.
- Participation in the **Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy**.
- Meeting all funding requirements defined by Texas Partnerships, including allocating all federal, state, and local funds due to the campus, in alignment with **Texas Partnership Guidelines**.
- Evaluation of partner applicants' plans for selecting, adopting, and implementing high-quality instructional materials (as defined in these Program Guidelines and found on the Texas Resource Review **website**) during the Call for Quality Schools process.

TEA Program Requirements

Applicants selecting "Create New School" actions must commit to

- Select and designate a campus leader no later than June 15, 2023.

- Apply for a new CDCN (County District Campus Number) for "New Schools" by March 2024.

- "New Schools" established without tested grade levels must be paired with another campus in the same LEA or the overall LEA for accountability purposes by March 2024, as per guidelines in Chapter 7 of the 2022 Accountability Manual (or a later version if published).

- Include the new campus in its Title I ESSA plan in time for SY2023-2024.

- Assure enrollment at a "New School" will prioritize students previously attending or zoned to a 2021-2022 Title I served Comprehensive and/or Targeted School (2022 ratings).

- A new district-managed campus will select and design one of three approved new school models:
  - STEM/STEAM
  - College Prep
  - Montessori.

More information about new school models supported by SAF can be found at www.centerforschoolactions.org .

Program Specific Assurances

Program-Specific Assurances

- The applicant LEA will select one of the eligible school actions and related models per grant
- Use a data-informed, both quantitative and qualitative, **evaluation process** and criteria for selecting the school action for the specific campus to be supported with this grant
  - If a specific campus has not yet been identified, use a data-informed, both quantitative and qualitative evaluation process, criteria, and appropriate timeline for identifying the campus for school action, including the rationale for naming a specific campus during the planning year
- Align the school action with the **LEA's overall strategy for support and intervention in low-performing schools** and/or the LEA's strategy for expanding high-quality school choices for students and families
- Assure that **senior LEA leaders** have and will be involved in the decision to select the school action for the campus(es) and to apply for this School Action Fund Planning and Implementation Grant
- Assure that the applicant LEA worked or will work with members of the **school community** (staff, families, community leaders) to communicate plans and solicit input into the school action planning and implementation process
- Identify a LEA staff member to coordinate the planning and implementation grant who is both qualified and experienced in **project and program management**
- Select, adopt, and implement with fidelity **high-quality instructional materials** to be integrated into the design and implementation of the chosen action

Project Evaluation and Modification

- **Applicants agree to completion of ongoing progress monitoring of Gates and Deliverables, including**
  - Reporting interim student outcomes to ensure campus is on track to A/B rating
  - Submitting a quarterly SAF Progress Monitoring Rubric (PMR) to track implementation fidelity

- **District-Run, Planning and Partner-Managed Planning Actions have 4 Gates:**
  - Gate 1: Envision and Plan
  - Gate 2: Design and Authorize
  - Gate 3: Prepare to Implement
  - Gate 4: Prepare to Launch

- **Implementation Actions are similar**
  - Gate 0: Establish (is described in the posted Program Guidelines)
  - Gates 1 – 4: Email the Center for School Actions at karen@schoolactions.org

School Action Fund (SAF) Scoring & Prioritization

- **All eligible LEA's grant applications will be evaluated based on the following categories:**
  - **Strategy Overview (no points awarded)**
  - School Action Eligibility (no points awarded)
  - Priority Points based on campus and district context (up to 50 points per campus)
  - Interview with district and campus leaders (up to 50 points per campus)

- **Awards will be determined according to the following methodology:**
  1. Application
  2. Priority Points: TEA will then award priority points to eligible applicants. Priority points will be granted to high needs districts and campuses (as determined by 2022 accountability ratings), economically disadvantaged districts and campuses, and districts that have an Office of Innovation (up to 50 points).
  3. TEA will rank order campuses by priority points. The top 40 campuses will go to the next round, the virtual interview. In the case of a tie, campuses with the highest economically disadvantaged percentage will go to the next round. (For new schools or campuses that have not yet been identified, the district average will be considered.)
  4. Virtual Interview: A maximum of 50 points are available during the interview, which will be added to the overall point total.

School Action Fund (SAF) Interviews

During the virtual oral interview, LEAs should include the following individuals:
- Superintendent, or Superintendent delegate
- Proposed grant project manager
- Senior district leader directly responsible for overseeing the selected campus
- Campus-level leader selected to lead the school action planning process (if identified)

Interviews will cover the following topics:

School Action Selection (25 points)
- Evaluation process and criteria for selecting the school action
- Alignment of school action with overall district strategy for school improvement
- Support from district leadership and school board

Readiness to Plan/Implement (25 points)
- Understanding of school action requirements and planning activities
- Awareness of school action implementation challenges and mitigation strategies
- Plans for engaging technical assistance organizations
- Presence of existing practices and policies to support school action planning
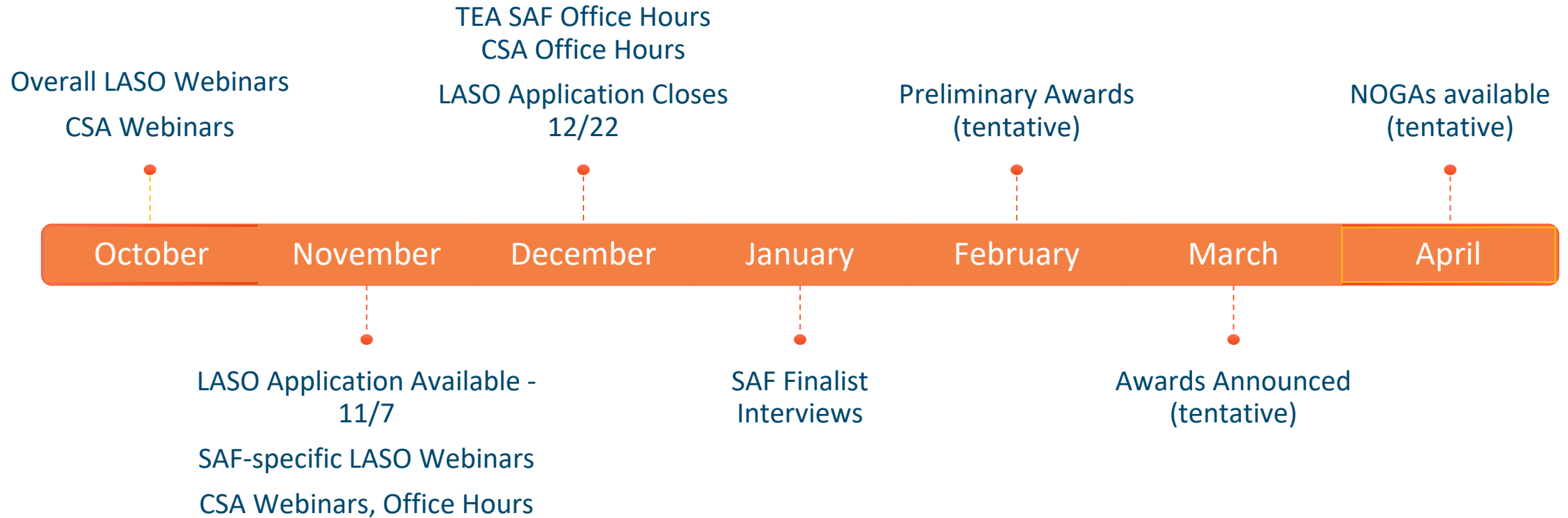
School Action Fund (SAF) Allowable vs Unallowable Expenditures

Allowable expenditures/uses	Unallowable expenditures/uses
Planning Year School Leader release time to complete planning activities	Advisory Council(s)
High-quality Instructional Materials and Support	Field Trips
District Administrator / Innovation Officer Position	Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization
Educator Stipends and Salaries	Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences
Travel expenses (prior approval from TEA SAF required)	Travel costs for students to conferences
School community engagement support	Stipends for non-employees
Extended Day Expenses	Non-employee costs for conferences
Start-up/transition funding for Partner Organization (as appropriate to the action and model)	Debt service (lease-purchase)
	Personal computing devices, electronics, and other computing devices (purchased in a quantity that will create an excess of a one-to-one technology ratio for students or faculty and staff)
	Textbooks or curricular materials (purchased in a quantity that will create an excess of a one-to-one resource ratio for students or faculty and staff).

In general, refer to the Budgeting Cost Guidance Handbook on the Administering a Grant page for allowable and unallowable costs.

School Action Fund (SAF) Timeline

TEA SAF Office Hours
CSA Office Hours

Overall LASO Webinars

LASO Application Closes 12/22

Preliminary Awards (tentative)

NOGAs available (tentative)

CSA Webinars

| October | November | December | January | February | March | April |

LASO Application Available - 11/7

SAF-specific LASO Webinars

CSA Webinars, Office Hours

SAF Finalist Interviews

Awards Announced (tentative)

The Center for School Actions (CSA) works with campuses and LEAs to support strategic decision-making to identify and select best-fit school actions. Visit their website for tools, resources, and webinars, or reach out via email at karen@schoolactions.org.

School Action Fund (SAF) Application

- Official submission of this application requires superintendent signature.

- In the rare case that the Superintendent is unable to sign, the LEA should email 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.

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 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.

× _____ SIGN HERE

clear

Office Hours

Office Hours are an opportunity to receive further technical support & high-level guidance. Office hours topics can include Technical assistance (accessing & submitting the Qualtrics application), referrals to TEA resources, and high-level reviews of dates, timelines, and estimated funding.

Examples:

- An LEA is having trouble logging in to the Qualtrics app and attends for assistance logging into their application.

- An LEA wants to ensure the timeline of a LASO initiative aligns with current district programs.

Office Hours will take place on

Thursday, December 1st from 9 to 10 am

School Action Fund (SAF)
Next Steps & Points of Contact

School Action Fund Points of Contact

- Laura Hyatt, Manager, School Action Fund: Laura.Hyatt@tea.texas.gov
- Center for School Actions: karen@schoolactions.org
- LASO: laso@tea.texas.gov

Next Steps

- Review the LASO webpage
  - Confirm SAF-eligible campuses within your district
  - Investigate the Actions and Models available
  - Prepare your questions for the SAF Office Hours
  - Revisit the General FAQ. Updated FAQ's will be posted by Tuesday, November 22nd
- Participate in SAF Office Hours: December 1, 2022, 9:00 – 10:00 am
- Visit the Center for School Actions website for tools, resources, and webinar recordings