

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

Strong Foundations
Implementation Supports
Program Guidelines



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Grant Program Guidelines 2022

| | |
|--|--|
| Grant Name as it will appear on the TEA Grant Opportunities Page | Strong Foundations Implementation Supports |
| Application Due Date | 11:59 p.m. Central Time, December 22, 2022 |
| Program Authority | Does not apply to grant program |

INTRODUCTION to the Program Guidelines

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 [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) 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 [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) provide information relevant to all TEA grant programs. Throughout the Guidelines, cross-references are given to applicable sections of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#). **It is critical that you review all referenced sections of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) 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 [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) webpage.
2. Eligible applicants submit grant application via Qualtrics to TEA by the specified deadline on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) 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 [Grants Awarded Data](#) webpage.
5. **Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit and certify an eGrant application including assurances and a budget summary to receive funding.**
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 | Does not apply to this grant program |
| Percentage to be financed with federal funds | Does not apply to this grant program |
| Amount of federal funds | Does not apply to this grant program |
| Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources | Does not apply to this grant program |
| Amount of nonfederal funds | Does not apply to this grant program |

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 | Valerie Johnson |
| Program manager title | Director of HQIM Implementation |
| Program manager email | strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov |
| Program manager phone | 512.463.6230 |

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; 10:00-11:00am November 17, 2022; 2:00-3:00 am | Webinar schedule 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 | Due date to submit questions for FAQ See the General and Fiscal Guidelines , Frequently Asked Questions. The FAQs for this grant program will be posted to the TEA Grant Opportunities and LASO website 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 | Date FAQs to be posted to TEA Grant Opportunities site and LASO website |
| 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 |

| Date | Event |
|------------------|--|
| February 6, 2023 | Anticipated award announcement |
| March 1, 2023 | Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , <i>Grant Period</i> |
| May 31, 2024 | Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding) |
| August 31, 2024 | Ending date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , <i>Grant Period</i> |

For all dates related to the grant, including reporting dates, see the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) 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

Does not apply to grant program

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 [LASO website](#) to acquire a new link

Purpose of Program

Two Strong Foundations grant supports will be offered: (1) Implementation Supports for LEAs ready to implement high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) in school year 2023-24, and (2) Planning Supports for LEAs ready to commit to a planning year in school year 2023-24.

This opportunity describes Option 1: Strong Foundations Implementation Supports grant, which provides in-kind supports for pre-implementation planning, as well as content- and product-specific professional learning for teachers, coaches, and administrators on effectively implementing HQIM.

Eligible Applicants

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Eligibility To Apply*
Eligible applicants are LEAs implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition).

Shared Services Arrangements

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), 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 [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#): *Grant Required Program-Related Attachments*

Does not apply to this grant program

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 [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Fingerprinting Requirement*.

Does not apply to this grant program

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:

No TEA specific requirements.

Program-Specific Assurances

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Provisions and Assurances*.

Strong Foundations Implementation Supports awarded LEAs will commit to:

- a. Approval by Superintendent and CAO (or equivalent leader) to participate in the pilot (and school board if required by local policy)
- b. Appointment of initiative lead as the primary point of contact and submission of at least 1 additional point of contact

- c. Participation of at least 1 school leader per participating campus
- d. Participation of at least 1 coach per product (coaches may include instructional coaches, administrators, leaders, or other individuals directly supporting teachers)
- e. Submission of participant registration information by deadlines
- f. Following the year-long scope and sequence for each product
- g. Meeting the minimum number of instructional minutes for each product
- h. Using the curriculum-embedded assessments for each product
- i. Ensuring participants are able to attend all required professional learning
- j. Ensuring teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols
- k. Ensuring digital access and rostering (if applicable)
- l. Ensuring print access
- m. Ensuring participating initiative leads, school leaders, coaches, and teachers complete role-specific assurances
- n. Submitting all required data
- o. Attendance and engagement by senior district leaders at monthly Communities of Practice (CoPs)

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

This section provides detailed information about the grant.

Description of Program

High-quality instructional materials (HQIM) are among the most impactful elements of a student’s education. HQIM allow students to engage more deeply and meaningfully with the Texas standards and supports teachers in ensuring all students have access to high-quality and rigorous grade-level content. As LEAs continue to face high levels of learning loss, evidence shows that HQIM can help close these gaps. This Strong Foundations Implementation Supports grant seeks to dramatically improve the quality of curriculum and instruction in K-5 Literacy and Math classrooms in order to accelerate student learning.

In previous years, TEA did not offer the Strong Foundations Grant program as a bundled package but allowed school systems to select components of the program to implement. The offerings included in this grant allow school systems who have started to engage in Strong Foundations supports to access components of the program they may not have originally decided to participate in during previous years.

All options include in-kind supports for pre-implementation planning to prepare for high-fidelity implementation and meet assurances in Spring 2023, as well as content- and product-specific onboarding and ongoing high-quality professional learning (HQPL) for teachers, coaches, and administrators in Summer 2023 and the 2023-24 School Year. All options require a commitment to meet a set of district- and school-level assurances, including meeting data submission requirements.

All options also include the Strong Foundations District Communities of Practice (CoP) which provide the opportunity for districts to work through challenges in a community of similar school systems engaged in similar programs. These CoPs are specifically focused on supporting senior district leaders (Superintendents, Chief Academic Officers, Chief School Officers, or equivalent roles) and will be held monthly.

There will be three options for Strong Foundations Implementation Supports in 2023-24 for LEAs implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition).

- CRIMSI: The COVID Recovery Instructional Materials Support Initiative (CRIMSI) provides high-quality professional learning (HQPL) directly to teachers, coaches, and administrators through asynchronous modules and live virtual communities of practice; print materials for teachers and students for the full year, including manipulatives and trade books, in addition to digital access to the core materials; and stipends for teachers and coaches completing all requirements.
- CRIMSI Local Implementation Training of Trainers (ToT): CRIMSI Local Implementation Training of Trainers provides HQPL directly to coaches and administrators through asynchronous modules and live virtual communities of practice in a “training of trainers” (ToT) model. Coaches and administrators then provide supports to teachers locally.
- ESC Strong Foundations Implementation Supports: ESC Strong Foundations Implementation Supports provides HQPL directly to teachers, coaches, and administrators through asynchronous modules and live virtual and/or in-person job-embedded supports delivered by Education Service Centers.

The Strong Foundations Grant Program (Texas Education Code Sec. 29.0881) is established through House Bill 4545, 87th Regular Session, 2021 and will offer K-5 Math & Literacy comprehensive Tier 1 instructional supports, including curriculum, instructional leadership, and planning supports.

Supplement, Not Supplant

For supplement, not supplant guidance, see the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook on the Grants Administration Division’s [Administering a Grant](#) page.

The supplement not supplant provision

Does not apply

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

Performance Measures

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

- The LEA must submit data as requested by TEA, including assessment data. Assessment data is not evaluative, but will inform continuous improvement of the products and implementation supports provided to LEAs.

Limits on Contracted Evaluators

Does not apply to this grant program

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 75-175 LEAs will be awarded a range of in-kind support.

Selection of Applicants for Funding

Applicants will be selected in:

Rank order

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Cost Share/Match Requirement*.

Does not apply to this grant program

Limitation of Administrative Funds

Does not apply to this grant program

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

Direct Administrative Costs

Does not apply to this grant program

Indirect Costs

For Federal Grants Only

Does not apply to this grant program

For State Funded Grants Only

Does not apply to this grant program

Pre-Award Costs

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Pre-Award Costs*.

Pre-award costs:

Does not apply to this grant program

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:

Does not apply to this grant program

Field Trips

Field trips

Does not apply to this grant program

Advisory Council

An advisory council:

Does not apply to this grant program

Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization

The cost of membership in any civic or community organization:

Does not apply to this grant program

Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences

Hosting or sponsoring conferences

Does not apply to this grant program

Out-of-State Travel

Out-of-state travel costs:

Does not apply to this grant program

Travel Costs

Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members

Travel costs for officials such as the executive director, superintendent, or board members

Does not apply to this grant program

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

General Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds

In general, refer to the Budgeting Cost Guidance Handbook on the [Administering a Grant](#) page for unallowable costs

Does not apply to this grant program

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 [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Private Nonprofit School Participation*.

This requirement: Does not apply to this grant program

Maintenance of Effort

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *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 based on the following categories:

- LEAs with prior participation and good standing in the Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP), the Strong Foundations Literacy/Math Framework Grant, and/or the COVID Recovery Instructional Materials Support Initiative (CRIMSI) will be prioritized first for grant funds.
- 3rd grade *math or literacy* STAAR scores ranked from lowest to highest (subject ranked is based on LEA grant request)
- Requested grant preference (according to capacity available)
 - A – CRIMSI
 - B – CRIMSI Local Implementation Training of Trainers
 - C – ESC Strong Foundations Implementation Supports

For K-5 RLA applications, eligible LEAs will be awarded based on rank order of 3rd grade RLA STAAR scores from lowest to highest. LEAs will be awarded their preferred option if possible; however, each option has capacity limitations and LEAs may not receive their preferred option. LEAs who have previously participated in CRIMSI for K-5 RLA and are applying to expand the pilot to new teachers will be awarded the CRIMSI Local Implementation Training of Trainers option for K-5 RLA if the capacity for the other options has been met.

For K-5 Math applications, eligible LEAs will be awarded based on rank order of 3rd grade Math STAAR scores from lowest to highest. LEAs will be awarded their preferred option if possible; however, each option has capacity limitations and LEAs may not receive their preferred option. LEAs who have previously participated in CRIMSI for K-5 RLA or K-5 Math and are applying to expand the pilot to new teachers will be awarded the CRIMSI Local Implementation Training of Trainers option for K-5 Math if the capacity for the other options has been met.

Once the applicants with previous grant funds in good standing from RSSP, Framework Grant, and/or CRIMSI have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants using the same process as above.

In the case of a tie at the end of funding availability, virtual interviews will be conducted to assess overall readiness.

Oral Interviews for Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Grant Oral Interviews for Funding*.

During the virtual oral interviews, applicants will have the opportunity to elaborate and be evaluated on the topics below, 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.

1. Systems Alignment (50%): Including, but not limited to, instructional time, planning time, and assessment strategy
2. Support Models (50%): Including, but not limited to, coaching supports & observation and feedback practices

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