

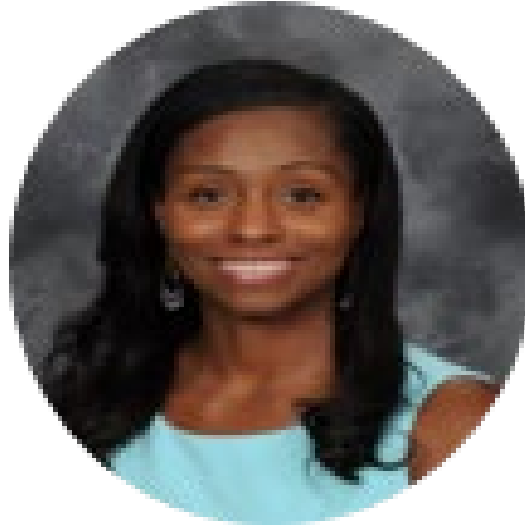
A photograph of a female teacher with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt, sitting on the floor and reading a book to a group of young children in a classroom. The children are also sitting on the floor, looking at the book. Bookshelves filled with books and blue storage bins are visible in the background.

**Strong Foundations Planning  
Webinar  
LASO | Learning Acceleration  
Support Opportunities Grant**

# Welcome and Thank you for Joining Today!



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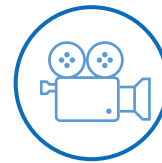
Leslie Cuellar  
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Operations Lead  
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# Agenda and FYIs for Today's Webinar

- Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of the LASO
3. Strong Foundations Planning Deep Dive | Program description, eligibility, key commitments, scoring, interview criteria, allowable expenditures
4. Next Steps and Q&A

## FYIs



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

Strong Foundations Planning 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**

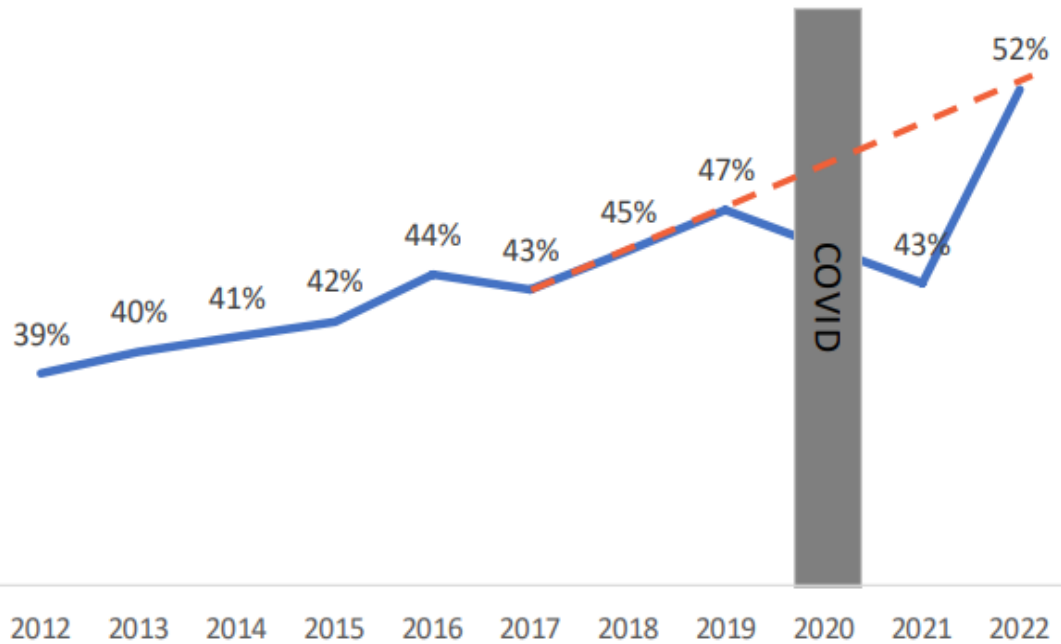
TEA initiatives to  
support learning  
acceleration and  
innovation

**1**

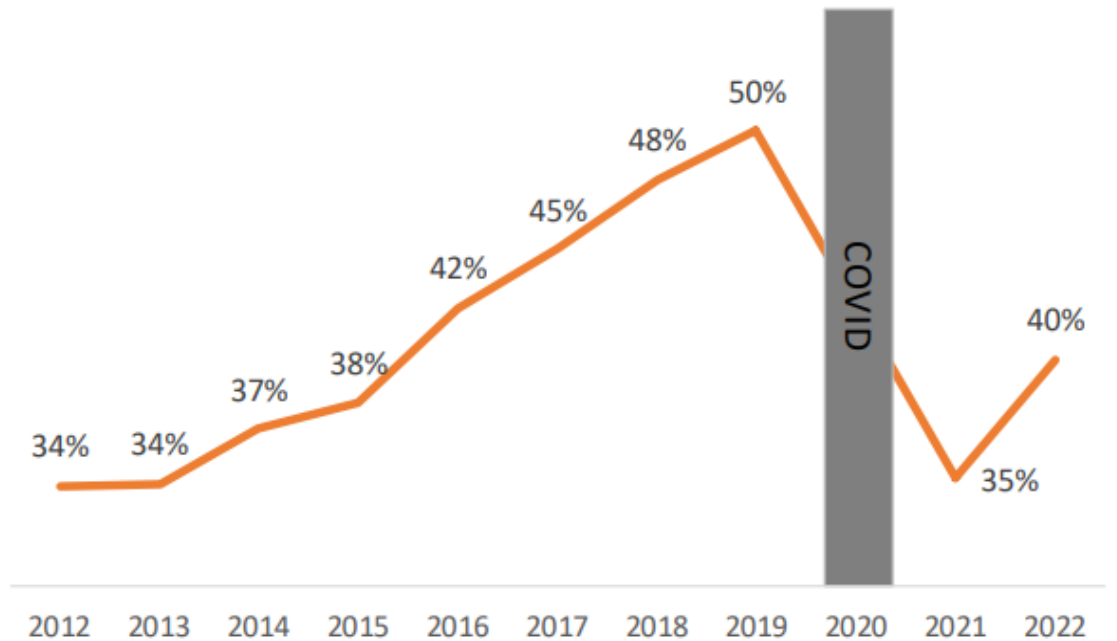
LEA program  
application to  
access funding

# 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

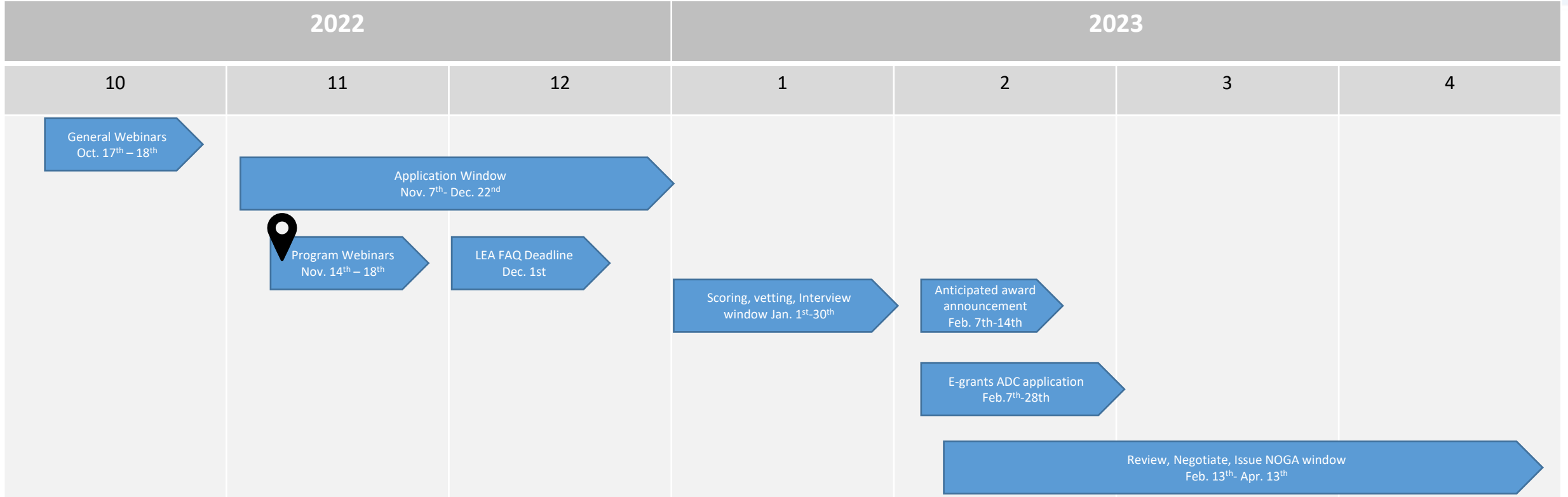
Implementation Year | SY 24-25

### SAF School Action Fund

Ready to plan in SY23-24



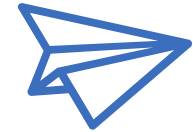
# Timeline and Application Process



### 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.

- 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 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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



# **Strong Foundations Planning Deep Dive**

# Strong Foundations Planning High Level Overview

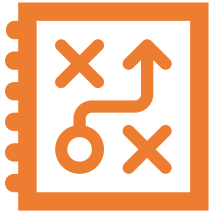
## Instructional Materials



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

Estimated Total Funding Available	~15 Million
Estimated Range of Award	Up to \$400,000
Estimated Award Numbers	50-250LEAs (will vary based on size of LEAs)
Estimated Timeline	Ready to Implement new framework in SY24-25

# Strong Foundations Implementation Program Description



The **Strong Foundations Planning** grant provides support to LEAs to develop a strong instructional framework in math or literacy, provides optional adoption supports in selecting new HQIM if LEAs choose to make a materials switch; and trainings to support creating systems to effectively manage instruction at the district level.

*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.*



# Strong Foundations Planning Eligibility Requirements

**All LEAs are eligible to apply for the Strong Foundations Planning grant.**

LEAs that have previously engaged in the Strong Foundations Framework Development Grant **may not re-apply** for the same subject area focus as previous grant cycles

Prior grantees for the Strong Foundations Framework Development Grant are eligible applicants in new subject areas



## 2 options for Strong Foundations Planning

**Literacy** Framework Development  
and Strategic Planning Supports

**Math** Framework Development and  
Strategic Planning Supports



# Strong Foundations Planning Supports

Strong Foundations Planning will provide funds and support for **technical assistance** to engage in the following activities...

1 **Collective learning**



LEAs will engage in collective learning on the science of how students learn (e.g. the research based instructional strategies, or RBIS)

2 **Gap Analysis**



In-depth analysis to assess what is currently happening within a school system compared to the new vision & framework

3 **Instructional vision and framework**



Development of a district-wide vision and framework for math and/or literacy based on the research of how students learn and the TEKS

4 **Adoption training and supports**



Optional training and system planning for the evaluation and adoption of HQIM

5 **Leader Communities of Practice (COP)**



Monthly COP for district leaders (Superintendents or Chief Academic Officers) to build a community and navigate challenges related to the work

6 **Readiness assessment**



Assessment for LEAs implementing OER K-5 HQIM to assess readiness for implementation to support decision making for year 1 of implementation

# Strong Foundations Planning Supports

Please note, Strong Foundations Planning...

- **Does not include** grant funds for purchasing Tier 1 instructional materials
- Is **not tied to use** of specific products or materials

## Strong Foundations Planning Key Commitments

- The LEA agrees to appointing a primary point of contact and LEA lead for all grant related activities. The LEA lead will be responsible for ensuring all assurances are met by the LEA, coordinates with the selected approved provider on a regular basis, attends any check-ins or webinars hosted by TEA, and communicates with TEA should the primary point of contact leave the LEA during the grant period.
- The LEA agrees to using the TEA approved provider for the appropriate services aligned to the grant goals.
- The LEA agrees the Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) agrees to participate in any trainings or collective learning series hosted by the LEA and approved provider.
- The LEA agrees the Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) signs-off on the final LEA math and/or literacy instructional framework, or other products that are created as a result of completing a collective learning series on math, literacy, implementation, or assessment.

## Strong Foundations Planning Key Commitments

- The LEA agrees the Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) will approve the math and/or literacy development, framework adoption, and implementation process.
- The LEA agrees the LEA lead and Superintendent, or CAO (or equivalent role) will participate in monthly Communities of Practice (CoPs) with similar LEAs during the grant period.
- The LEA agrees to create a comprehensive committee that is representative of the LEA for the collective learning series and to review drafts of deliverables.
- The LEA agrees to submission of feedback surveys from TEA to LEA leadership and the LEA's committee on a quarterly basis.
- The LEA agrees to participating in an end-of-grant focus group upon request. TEA may reach out to request participation of committee members and/or LEA leadership.
- The LEA agrees to submitting all other required data as part of the grant program.

## Literacy Strong Foundations Planning

3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading STAAR scores ranked from lowest to highest

## Math Strong Foundations Planning

3<sup>rd</sup> grade math STAAR scores ranked from lowest to highest

LEAs will be awarded their preferred option (2A; 2B) if possible; however, each option has capacity limitations and it's possible LEAs may not be awarded both options (if applying for both)



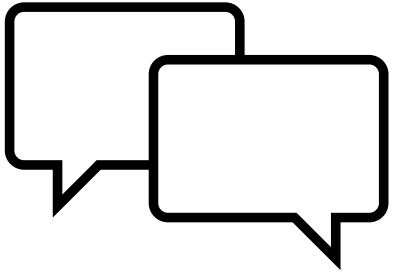
# Strong Foundations Implementation Scoring & Prioritization

LEAs with prior participation and good standing in the following initiatives will be prioritized:

Resilient Schools Support Program

Strong Foundations Math and Literacy  
Framework Development Grant

CRIMSI 2021-22 or 2022-23 pilots



In the case of a tie, virtual oral interviews will be conducted to assess overall readiness for planning, including:

1. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Including, but not limited to, plans for engaging stakeholders at the teacher, school, and district-level to support buy-in of a newly developed instructional framework
2. **Materials Adoption and/or Aligning Support Models:** Including, but not limited to, the LEA's decision to utilize adoption supports to adopt new math or literacy instructional materials; or, if already using HQIM, the priority areas with which they hope to better align support models such as coaching supports, observations, and feedback practices

*LEAs invited for an interview should plan for a district leader in this line of work to be in attendance.*

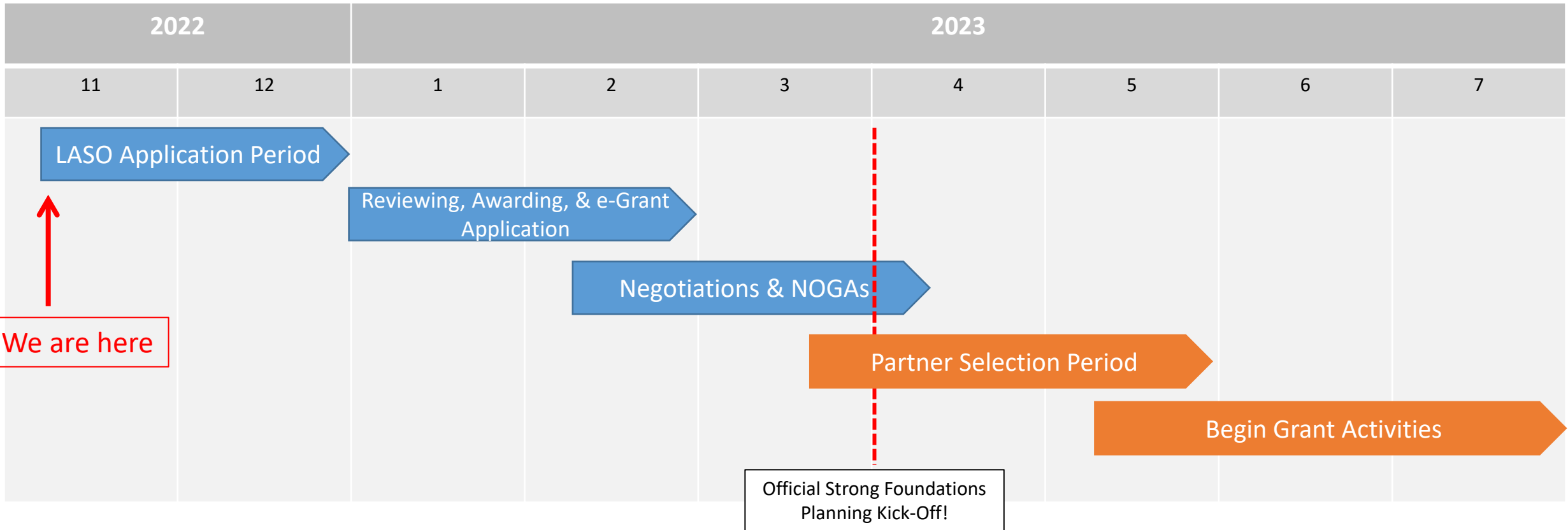


# Strong Foundations Planning Allowability vs Non-allowability

<b>Allowable expenditures/uses</b>	<b>Unallowable expenditures/uses</b>
70% of funds must go towards contracted services with a single Strong Foundations Approved Provider	Stipends or salaries for staff members not associated with completion of grant activities
Salary or stipend to support a project manager at the LEA	Purchase of Tier 1 instructional materials outside of a small-scale pilot or for review during a review and selection phase of an adoption process
Stipends to accommodate committee member time spent on collective learning and providing feedback on an instructional framework	Other purchases not associated with grant activities
Materials and supplies needed to support the collective learning series	
In-state or out of state travel associated with grant activities	



# Strong Foundations Planning Timelines



- PART 1: Assurances
  - LEAs must agree to grant assurances in order to qualify for Strong Foundations Planning Supports.

## Strong Foundations Planning Supports

### Part 1: Assurances

8. Does the LEA agree the superintendent, or CAO (or equivalent role) will participate in monthly Communities of Practice (CoPs) with similar LEAs during the grant period.

Yes

No

9. Does the LEA agree to create a comprehensive committee that is representative of the LEA for the collective learning series and to review drafts of deliverables.

Yes

No

# Strong Foundations Planning Application Walkthrough

- PART 2: Identifying Information
  - LEAs will be asked if they are current participants of the following initiatives:
    - Resilient Schools Strategic Planning (RSSP)
    - Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant
    - COVID Recovery Instructional Materials Support Initiative (CRIMSI) for Math or RLA
    - TCLAS Decision 2 State Approved Vendor List for Math or RLA

## Strong Foundations Planning Supports

### Part 2: Identifying Information

13. Is your LEA currently or has your school system previously received supports through Resilient Schools Strategic Planning (RSSP)?

Yes

No

14. Is your LEA currently a grantee in the Strong Foundations Math/Literacy Framework Grant?

Select all that apply.

Yes – Literacy Framework

Yes – Math Framework

No

15. Is your LEA currently or has your school system previously participated in a COVID Recovery Instructional Materials Support Initiative (CRIMSI) full year pilot for math or reading language arts?

Select all that apply.

Yes – K-5 RLA: Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program/Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español

Yes – K-5 Math: Eureka Math TEKS Edition

No

16. Is your LEA currently or has your school system previously participated in implementation supports through the TCLAS Decision 2 State Approved Vendor List for math or reading language arts?

Select all that apply.

Yes – K-5 RLA: Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program/Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español

Yes – K-5 Math: Eureka Math TEKS Edition

No

- PART 3: Selecting Focus Subject Area
  - LEAs can choose to apply for Framework Development and Strategic Planning Support in math or literacy or for both.

## Strong Foundations Planning Supports

**Part 3: Selecting Focus Subject Area**

17. Which Strong Foundations supports are you applying for?

Literacy Framework Development and Strategic Planning Supports

Mathematics Framework Development and Strategic Planning Supports

Both Literacy and Mathematics Framework Development and Strategic Planning Supports

← Back

→ Save and Next

# Strong Foundations Planning Application Walkthrough

- Official submission of this application requires superintendent signature.
- In rare case that the Superintendent is unable to sign, the 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

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

**Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 pm**



# Next Steps & Points of Contact

## SFP Points of Contact

- Strong Foundations Inbox: [strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov](mailto:strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov)
- LASO: [laso@tea.texas.gov](mailto:laso@tea.texas.gov)

## Next Steps

- Review the LASO [webpage](#)
- Prepare your questions for the Office Hours
- Revisit the [General FAQ](#). Updated FAQ's will be posted by Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Participate in SFP Office Hours: [Wednesday November 30, 3-4 pm](#)