

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

FRIDAY, MARCH 19 – 5 PM CT

Resilient Schools Support Program

Year 2 Application

Introduction:

**Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP) Overview**

Early data indicates that school closures and disruptions in SY19-20 and SY20-21 are likely to result in unfinished learning for many students statewide, making recovery and acceleration plans even more crucial.  Many LEA central teams and campuses could benefit greatly from having access to tailored, targeted support to address the challenges posed by these unprecedented times. Further, LEA leadership teams are working hard to anticipate multiple scenarios and needs, including the potential continuation of remote and hybrid learning and extended, individualized support to students.

In response to these unprecedented challenges, the TEA is expanding the RSSP to extend support to more LEAs in SY21-22.  By joining the RSSP, LEAs will receive customized technical assistance over the course of April 2021-June 2022 to build robust COVID recovery and acceleration plans, implementing continuous improvement cycles.  RSSP LEAs will seek to improve student outcomes in an approach that is inclusive and supportive of the broader school community, particularly campus leaders, teachers, and families.

**SY20-21 RSSP District Support**

The RSSP currently serves 50+ LEAs this school year.  RSSP supports have reached 5,700+ teachers, 450+ school leaders, 310+ district leaders and 370+ campuses. Program LEAs vary in all sizes and regions.

RSSP LEAs have received bi-weekly coaching, professional development, and implementation support in alignment to each district’s individual needs and priorities.  LEAs participating in RSSP this year report that the program has been valuable to achieving impact.  

* 95% of participating LEAs agree that coaching meetings with their technical assistance partner is time well spent
* 97% of participating LEAs reporting seeing progress in at least one area of focus
* 96% of participants have found cohort learning opportunities to be insightful
* 94% of participants feel confident in implementing strategies from cohort learning opportunities

**What Districts Participating in RSSP will Receive / Benefits**

The RSSP will select up to 100 LEAs to support spring 2021 through summer 2022.  Selected LEAs will be matched with highly qualified technical assistance providers.  That provider, in partnership with TEA, will support LEAs to do the following things:

* Evaluate your COVID recovery and acceleration needs across the LEA
* Support you in crafting a recovery and acceleration implementation plan for school year 21-22 needs
* Co-develop and support implementation of campus level improvements
* Provide a direct line to TEA support and resources

Through this program, LEAs will receive support with continuously improving their identified highest leverage recovery and acceleration strategies.  These improvements could include strategic interventions in tier one instruction, adapting existing curriculum or adopting new curriculum, supporting teacher development, revising schedules, better serving special populations and other related topics.  Due to the highly fluid nature of the school year, TEA reserves the right to modify the programs or supports.

Selected LEAs must commit to making the Resilient Schools Support Program a cabinet-level priority.  A full-time Cabinet-level team member (preferably the Chief Academic Officer or a similar role) must make this a yearlong priority and be willing to make significant improvements throughout the year.

# Eligible Applicants:

All interested Texas LEAs are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to LEAs that participated in Year 1 of the Resilient Schools Support Program. Applications will be evaluated for four key criteria: Need, Commitment, Program Fit, and Application Quality. After applications are submitted, TEA staff will conduct 25-minute zoom interview with LEA Cabinet leaders to add context to the written application and make an acceptance decision. Superintendents and Chief Academic Officers are required to attend. Other cabinet and senior leadership members are invited to attend, but optional. You will receive an invite to interview upon submission of your application. The final RSSP cohort will be selected by taking into account LEA cohort diversity factors, including regional diversity.

RSSP Application Process and Timeline:

* By March 19: Submit application
* March 1 - 24: Invited applicants engage in interviews
* April 2: Accepted LEAs notified
* April 2 - 8: LEA-TA Partner match notification
* By April 8: Accepted LEAs must confirm participation
* April 14th OR 16th *(tentative)*: RSSP Launch Webinars

*Note: TEA reserves the right to evolve and shift program details and timeline described above*

How to Submit:

E-mail your completed application (saved as a Word doc) to RSSP@tea.texas.gov

* Late or incorrectly formatted applications will not be accepted
* Contact [RSSP@tea.texas.gov](mailto:RSSP@tea.texas.gov) with questions

Resilient Schools Support Year 2 Program Application

*Section 1: LEA Information*

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| --- | --- |
| 1. LEA Name: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| 1. LEA Number: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Region Number: |  |

1. Key Contact Information (enter in table below):

*Note: Each LEA is required to select a Project Lead for the RSSP. This person will serve as the primary contact for both the TEA and technical assistance providers, and will be responsible for project management and coordination within the LEA. A Chief Schools Officer or Chief Academic Officer is recommended.*

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| --- | --- |
| Superintendent Name |  |
| Superintendent Email |  |
| Superintendent Phone |  |
| RSSP Project Lead (Primary Contact) Name |  |
| RSSP Project Lead (Primary Contact) Email |  |
| RSSP Project Lead (Primary Contact) Title |  |

Section 2: Current State

1. In the table below, please indicate your interest in receiving COVID Recovery support tied to each lever of the Effective Schools Framework. Note that the answers you provide will not limit the type of support your LEA will receive if accepted into the program. Instead, this information will be used to better understand your LEA’s key areas of need.

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| --- | --- |
| Area for COVID Recovery Support (ESF-aligned) | Place an X in this column if you would like COVID Recovery support in this area |
| ESF Lever 1: Strong School Leadership and Planning   * Planning for COVID recovery & learning acceleration * Data collection and progress monitoring |  |
| ESF Lever 2: Effective, Well-Supported Teachers   * Observation and feedback * Professional development * Strategic scheduling and staffing solutions |  |
| ESF Lever 3: Positive School Culture   * Social emotional supports for teachers and students * Student mental health and wellbeing |  |
| ESF Lever 4: High-Quality Curriculum   * Curriculum audits and/or selection * High Quality Instructional Material Adoption (including Texas Home Learning curriculum, if applicable) |  |
| ESF Lever 5: Effective Instruction   * Accelerated Tier 1 instruction to address learning loss * Planning and implementing intensive interventions * Support for diverse learners (e.g., Students with Disabilities, English Learners) * Teacher collaboration & PLCs |  |
| Other  *Please describe any other specific areas where you would like to receive COVID-recovery support.* |  |

1. In the table below, please place an X in the appropriate column to indicate any areas where you are considering adopting new instructional materials or curriculum, or where you have recently adopted new curriculum and are interested in implementation support. Note that curriculum adoption is not a requirement of the program, but rather an optional support; your response to this question will help us better understand your LEA’s needs.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade Levels | ELAR | Math | Science | Social Studies |
| Pre-K |  |  |  |  |
| K-2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3-5 |  |  |  |  |
| 6-8 |  |  |  |  |
| 9-12 |  |  |  |  |

1. *(If applicable)* Please describe any tentative plans you have for remote learning next year. Include:
   1. Under what circumstances would students engage in remote learning?
   2. What structures are you currently considering to deliver remote instruction (e.g., a virtual academy, split staffing, split scheduling, concurrent instruction)?

[200 words max]

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Section 3: Proposed Project Focus

1. What are your LEA’s 3 most important goals or priorities for SY21-22? Describe how those priorities were selected and what you hope their impact will be on student learning. [200 words max]

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1. Describe how you are currently tracking, or planning to track, learning loss. Include any challenges or barriers you have faced, or that you anticipate facing, in measuring and tracking learning loss. [200 words max]

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1. Describe what your hope to gain from the RSSP, as well as how you hope RSSP supports will align with your LEA’s key priorities. [300 words max]

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Section 4: LEA Commitments to RSSP

1. Team Commitment: As part of the RSSP, LEAs will be asked to form an RSSP Team that regularly partners with RSSP technical assistance providers and meets as a central LEA team to advance RSSP initiatives. To the best of your current understanding, please fill in the last column in the table below with the names of the individuals who would be on your LEA’s RSSP team:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Team Role | Key Responsibilities | Name(s) & Title(s) |
| Senior Project Sponsor [Required]  (Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer recommended) | * Ensures RSSP initiatives are sufficiently resourced and prioritized across the LEA * Sets vision and strategy for RSSP initiatives * Steers team toward project outcomes, works to remove barriers to team progress |  |
| RSSP Project Lead / Primary Contact  [Required]  (Chief Schools Officer, Chief Academic Officer recommended) | * Serves as primary point of contact with TEA and RSSP technical assistance provider * Project manages RSSP internally * Coordinates across LEA teams to execute project to meet outcomes * Plans for and facilitates RSSP internal LEA coordination meetings * Escalates arising issues |  |
| Curriculum & Instruction Lead  [Required] | * Ensures effective execution of RSSP-related C&I action steps and coordination * Provides C&I perspective as needed |  |
| Data Lead  [Required] | * Ensures effective execution of RSSP-related data action steps and coordination * Provides data perspective as needed * Supports Project Lead in data reporting |  |
| Diverse Learner Lead  [Required]  (Special education or multi-tiered system of supports lead recommended) | * Ensures effective execution of RSSP-related action steps and coordination * Consistently brings diverse learner lens to proposed plans, tools, and training to advance access for all students |  |
| Possible Focus School Leader(s)\*  [Required]  (Recommend including at least 2-3 school leaders who will be highly involved) | * Provide school leader perspective and feedback to ensure effective translation of RSSP plans, training, tools to school sites * Actively partner with RSSP team to ensure strong onsite implementation * *Possible role –* Run early pilots and tests of new tools and practices |  |
| Faculty Advisory Group  [Recommended]  (Recommend including at least 2-3 faculty members) | * Provide periodic educator perspective and feedback to ensure effective translation of RSSP plans, training, and tools to the classroom; bring teacher voice into process * *Possible role –* Run early pilots and tests of new tools and practices |  |
| Technology Lead  [Recommended] | * Ensures effective execution of RSSP-related technology action steps and coordination * Provides technology perspective as needed |  |
| Other *(optional)*: |  |  |

*\*Focus schools will be finalized after the start of the program.*

1. Commitments: In the last column, bold “Yes” or “No” to indicate your ability to commit to each type of RSSP support or commitment listed

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commitment | Content | Frequency  (suggested) | Duration (suggested) | Team members  (required members bolded, others included as needed) | LEA RSSP team able to meet this commitment? (Please bold your answer) |
| RSSP Kickoff | TA providers and Project Lead partner to facilitate an RSSP project kickoff, clarify next steps and team roles | Once, start of year | 90 min | Senior Project Sponsor  Project Lead  Focal School Leader(s)  C&I Lead  Technology Lead  Data Lead  Diverse Learner Lead  Faculty Advisory Group | Yes / No |
| LEA RSSP collaboration meetings | Project Lead facilitates RSSP team meetings to make decisions, review deliverables, and align on coordinated action to move the work forward | Biweekly (may be weekly at the start) | 60 min | Senior Project Sponsor  Project Lead  Focal School Leader(s)  C&I Lead  Technology Lead  Data Lead  Diverse Learner Lead  Faculty Advisory Group | Yes / No |
| Technical assistance provider collaboration meetings | TA providers share tools, resources, plans, or collateral for feedback; provide consultation to RSSP team members | Weekly | 60 min | Senior Project Sponsor  Project Lead  Focal School Leader(s)  C&I Lead  Technology Lead  Data Lead  Diverse Learner Lead  Faculty Advisory Group | Yes / No |
| Improvement Review | TA providers partner with Project Lead, Data Lead to facilitate a data-backed progress review to inform next steps or pivots | Quarterly, occurs 4x over course of SY20-21 | 90 min | Senior Project Sponsor  Project Lead  Focal School Leader(s)  C&I Lead  Technology Lead  Data Lead  Diverse Learner Lead  Faculty Advisory Group | Yes / No |
| TEA Progress Check-in | TEA representative facilitates brief check-ins to ensure LEA needs are being supported, relevant learning is being shared across LEAs | Once every 3-4 weeks | 30 min | Senior Project Sponsor  Project Lead  Focal School Leader(s)  C&I Lead  Technology Lead  Data Lead  Diverse Learner Lead  Faculty Advisory Group | Yes / No |
| Campus-Level Supports | TA Providers provide direct or indirect (alongside LEA staff) professional development and/or coaching directly to campus leaders, coaches, and teachers | Dependent on improvement plan, utilizing existing in-service, PLC, or professional development structures | | Senior Project Sponsor  Project Lead  Focal School Leader(s)  C&I Lead  Technology Lead  Data Lead  Diverse Learner Lead  Faculty Advisory Group | Yes / No |

1. *(Optional)* Please include any relevant explanation for your answers above: [50 words max]

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*Section 5: Optional Section – Supplemental Information*

*Limit: 250 words maximum for this section*

1. Is there any additional information you would like to share, to inform our review of your application?

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1. What recommendations do you have for how RSSP can best support LEAs?

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*Section 6: RSSP Program Assurances*

By completing this application, the Superintendent commits to the following RSSP assurances:

1. The LEA commits to implementing the improvements planned via RSSP in the LEA-led planning process.
2. The LEA commits to requested RSSP network events and supports, particularly:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Support/Event | Duration | Frequency |
| RSSP Launch Webinar | 90 min | Once (start of program) |
| TA Partner collaboration | 60 min (minimum) | Weekly |
| LEA RSSP Team collaboration | 60 min (minimum) | Biweekly |
| Improvement Review | 90 min | Four times, quarterly |
| TEA progress check-in | 30 min | Monthly |
| Campus-Level Supports | Dependent on improvement plan, utilizing existing in-service, PLC, or professional development structures | |

1. The LEA commits to appointing an RSSP team as outlined in Section 4, noted below:

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| RSSP Team Role | Guidance |
| Senior Project Sponsor  \*Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer recommended | Required |
| RSSP Lead / Primary Contact | Required |
| Curriculum & Instruction Lead | Required |
| Technology Lead | Recommended |
| Data Lead | Required |
| Diverse Learner Lead  \*Special education or multi-tiered system of supports lead recommended | Required |
| Focal School Leader(s)  \*Recommend including at least 2-3 school leaders who will be highly involved; to be finalized after the project begins | Required |
| Teacher Advisory Group  \*Recommend including 2-3 teachers | Recommended |
| Technology Lead | Recommended |

1. The LEA will collaborate with the TEA and TA partners, giving classroom, tool, data access as needed:
   1. TA partners and the TEA will periodically need access to observe or join classrooms or internal meetings to gauge progress and better support LEAs. Note that this access is not for accountability purposes, but rather to inform how the TEA can improve technical assistance to the LEA and to better understand RSSP program successes and areas for improvement.
   2. TA partners and the TEA may request specific data in order to monitor progress and assess program impact; any data collected will not be used for accountability purposes.
   3. TA partners will collaborate with your team to establish and assess progress against data baselines periodically throughout the project
   4. The TEA intends to share helpful tools, training, and resources developed by RSSP participants across the RSSP network and Texas schools broadly

*TEA commits to supporting LEAs in completing all RSSP Program Assurances.*

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|  |  |  |
| Superintendent [Type in name above] |  | Date |

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Project Lead [Type in name above] |  | Date |