SY 21-22 COVID-19 School Health Support Grant (Grants to Schools)

September 20 & 21, 2021
Webinar Norms & Reminders

• Use the Q & A feature at the bottom of your screen to ask questions throughout the presentation.

• We will have a Q & A segment at the end of the webinar to address as many questions in the chat as we can. Any questions not answered will be answered later via our FAQ and/or via email.

• This session is intended to cover the 2021-2022 K-12 COVID-19 Grants to Schools Program

• A recording of the webinar will be provided after the second webinar is completed by Thursday, September 23 at close of business.

• Those public and private school districts if you are listed in this spreadsheet are temporarily supported by TEA through November 15th but are considered part of the Houston Health District CDC grant. As such, these districts are not eligible for the Grants to Schools program at this time.
Disclaimer

This presentation is intended solely to provide general information and guidance to Texas LEAs and reflects the Texas Education Agency’s current understanding of the presentation topics and applicable federal guidance. The content of this presentation is subject to change as a result of further potential information and guidance provided by federal agencies with regulatory oversight of these program(s). This presentation does not constitute legal advice, and LEAs are, therefore, advised to seek legal counsel regarding the information and guidance provided in this presentation before acting on such information and guidance.
Agenda

- Session Norms & Reminders
- Accessing Session Materials
- Grants to Schools Background
- Eligibility Requirements & Considerations
- Funding & Allocations

- Allowable Activities
- Grant Application
- Reporting & Compliance Monitoring
- Resources
- Q & A
Accessing Session Materials

K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project

FAQ and Guidance

- SY 21-22 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project High-Level One Pager (PDF) September 9 2021
- SY 21-22 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project Presentation (PDF) September 16 2021
- SY 21-22 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project FAQ (PDF) September 16 2021
- SY 2021-2022 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program Eligibility Requirements (PDF) September 16 2021

Tools, Templates and Resources

- Webinar
  - Recording from the September 10th and 14th testing webinars
  - Register to attend the grant overview webinar on Monday, September 20th (10:00-11:00)
  - Register to attend the grant overview webinar on Tuesday September 21st (1:00-2:00)
  - Register to attend the testing vendor Achieve Health Management webinar on Monday, September 20th (1:00-2:00)
  - Register to attend the testing vendor Thermo Fisher Scientific webinar on Tuesday, September 21st (3:00-3:45)
  - Register to attend the testing vendor SDI Labs webinar on Wednesday, September 22nd (1:00-2:00)
  - Register to attend the testing vendor Quest Diagnostics webinar – on September 22nd (10:00-11:00)
  - Register to attend the federal program provider Affinity Empowering webinar on Wednesday, September 20th (11:00-12:00)
- Test Report Form – coming soon the week of September 20th
- Public and Private School System Opt-In Application September 9 2021
  - This application should only be filled out by public and private school systems that are NOT currently enrolled in the state's testing program
- K-12 Public School Current Opt in List and Test Allocation Spreadsheet (PDF) September 17 2021
- Vendor Resource Sheet (excel) September 16 2021
- School Systems Supported by the City of Houston COVID-19 Testing Program (excel) September 9 2021
- K-12 Private School Allocation List (PDF) September 17 2021

https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/covid-19-support-public-health-orders#project
Background
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will invest $10 billion from the American Rescue Plan to states to enable schools to establish COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning.

Texas received a total $800 million, and the dollars flow to the state health department to administer.

- Within the $800 million, **$221 million in grant funding will be allocated for eligible public & private school systems** available for them to apply for and use for several allowable expenses, including additional services and/or products in testing, ventilation, and vaccination access.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and TEA have partnered together to make these resources available to public and private K-12 systems in Texas.

Goal of the Testing Project ($800m)

Provide needed resources to implement COVID testing programs and support for related prevention strategies in all K-12 public and private schools

Goal of the Grants to School Program ($221m)

Provide eligible K-12 public and private schools with access to needed funds to further support COVID mitigation/prevention resources and activities
Eligibility Requirements & Considerations
### Eligibility Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible to Apply for Funds</th>
<th>Ineligible to Apply for Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public School Districts</strong></td>
<td>• Any public or private school on the City of Houston list is NOT eligible to apply to the Grants to Schools program. Although TEA will be supporting those school systems with the COVID tests through vendors until Nov. 15th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Public K-12 school systems in Texas who are interested in accessing funds to assist their schools with COVID mitigation resources/activities in addition to testing resources.</td>
<td>• Pre-K only providers and/or daycare providers are NOT eligible to apply for access to these specific funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you offer Pre-K and those students share a building/co-mingle with K-12 students then you ARE eligible to apply for funds.</td>
<td>• Special note: If a private school system applies and accepts these grant funds, they may become a recipient of federal assistance, making them subject to specific federal requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private School Systems</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Private K-12 school systems in Texas who are interested in accessing funds to assist their schools with COVID mitigation resources/activities in addition to testing resources.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you offer Pre-K and those students share a building/co-mingle with K-12 students then you ARE eligible to apply for funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding & Allocations
We are currently internally working to finalize the application process for K-12 public and private school systems, including the allocation amounts.

We anticipate posting the final application with details on the TEA Grant Opportunities Page by mid-October or later in the Fall.
Allowable Activities
Allowable Activities-Overview

1. PPE (including but not limited to masks, gloves, gowns, & face shields);
2. Hygiene and cleaning supplies;
3. Portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation;
4. Public health events that include students and other community members and are aimed at providing opportunities for increased detection and prevention of COVID-19;
5. Vaccine promotion events and communications;
6. COVID-19 testing-test kits, turn-key testing services, and related support services;
7. Costs to obtain a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver;
8. Partial funding for staff who will be conducting grant-related duties for screening testing or COVID prevention programs that are outside of the staff’s regular duties; and
9. Other allowable uses pre-approved by TEA grant program office.
Allowable Activities- Details

The financial resources provided are required, by law, to support school-based screening testing activities intended to support open, in person K-12 school environments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, these resources may be used to support items or activities aimed at implementation of prevention strategies necessary to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Recipients should review the updated Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools and consider requesting the following when revising their ELC Reopening Schools budgets:

1. Personnel (term, temporary, students, overtime, contract staff, etc.).
2. Laboratory equipment used for COVID-19 testing and necessary maintenance contracts.
3. Collection supplies, test kits, reagents, consumables, and other necessary supplies for existing testing (screening or diagnostic) or onboarding new platforms to support thistesting.
4. Personal Protective Equipment Please see the most current CDC guidance for details (Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools).
5. Hygiene and cleaning supplies.
6. Hardware and software necessary for reporting to public health and communication and coordination of follow up on any positive cases detected.
7. Tools that assist in the rapid identification, electronic reporting, monitoring, analysis, and evaluation of control measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, that may be translatable to other diseases (e.g., GIS software, visualization dashboards, cloud services).
8. Contracts with academic institutions, private laboratories, other non-commercial healthcare entities, and/or commercial entities that may provide all or part of the screening testing needs. This may include contracts with companies that offer comprehensive support for screening testing in K-12 (e.g., sample collection, screening testing, and reporting).

Allowable Activities- Details

9. Software or systems to assist with laboratory resource management (e.g., software for inventory management, temperature notifications, etc.), quality management, biosafety, or training needs.

10. Leasing/purchasing vehicles (e.g., mobile screening testing, providing K-12 screening testing services in underserved areas, etc.). Note: Recipients will need to submit quotes with their revised budgets and receive prior approval from the Office of Grant Services (OGS). If need arises before or after the revised Notice of Grant Award (NOA) is issued, requests for leasing/purchasing must be made through GrantSolutions and include the necessary quotes.

11. Portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation

12. Public health events that include students and other community members and are aimed at providing opportunities for increased detection and prevention of COVID-19. Please note that promotion of vaccination may be considered a prevention strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19; however, recipients are asked to coordinate these activities between ELC and Immunization staff within the jurisdiction. Additionally, coordination with ELC Project Officer and Immunization Project Officer is crucial to ensure there is not duplication between the two sources of financial support.

13. Program incentives may be considered to encourage individuals to participate in screening testing. Recipients interested in exploring this option must submit a plan that covers all of the following elements: (a) justification, (b) cost savings [e.g., how it will defray costs or have a positive return on investment], (c) defined amount (not to exceed $25 per instance), (d) qualifications for issuance, and (e) method of tracking. When submitting the revised budget within 60 days of award issuance, the program incentive plan must be included in the ‘budget justification’ section of the ELC budget workbook and receive CDC approval before implementation. After the revised NOA is issued, any subsequent requests for using funds to support program incentives must be made in GrantSolutions, including the program incentive plan, and must receive CDC approval before implementation.

14. Wrap-around (e.g., hoteling, food, laundry, mental health services, etc.) services for those who test positive.
15. Expenses associated with outreach and assistance (e.g., support provided through community-based organizations).
16. Costs associated with transporting individuals to get tested.
17. Expenses associated with technical assistance to establish school-based screening testing programs (NGOs, academic institutions, foundations, etc.).
18. ELC Reopening Schools funds can be used to cover screening and diagnostic testing costs (e.g., administration, etc.) fully. Recipients should follow all appropriate federal laws and regulations pertaining to testing reimbursements, including assuring that charges are not covered both by ELC funds and other reimbursement sources.
19. Testing events that may also involve other mitigation activities (e.g., promotion of vaccination) to limit the spread of COVID-19.
20. The promotion vaccinations when characterized as a mitigation strategy to prevent widespread COVID-19 within the school and the community.
21. Costs related to prevention may also include portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation.

The above list covers the anticipated, most relevant costs associated with achieving the activities in this guidance.
Application Process

• TEA is currently internally working to develop an application for eligible K-12 public and private schools.

• K-12 Public School Systems - Plan to apply through the eGrants website (similar to the ESSER grant)

• K-12 Private School Systems - TEA is still determining your grant application format, which will be in one of the following formats:
  • PDF
  • Separate online form
  • Via eGrants
Additional Details

• Pre-award is available back to May 1, 2021.

• We anticipate the final application being posted by mid-October or later in the Fall.
Reporting & Compliance Monitoring
Reporting Requirements

- Recipients of the Grants to Schools’ funds will be required to submit fiscal reports as outlined by the CDC.
  - Potentially including but not limited to submitting a K-12 plan that details strategies used to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations in schools as community transmission and/or vaccination rates change.

Working with Outside Vendors

We are in conversations with the federal grant funders to determine if school systems can use these grant dollars to work with vendors they have previously and/or are currently working with outside of those listed on the vendor resource sheet. This option will require additional reporting-more details to come.
Learn More: Webinar for each vendor

Affinity Empowering
Monday, September 20th
11:00-12:00 a.m.
Register to attend

Achieve Health Management
Monday, September 20th
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Register to attend

Thermo Fisher Scientific
Tuesday, September 21st
3:00-3:45 p.m.
Register to attend

Quest
Wednesday, September 22nd
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Register to attend

SDI Labs
Wednesday, September 22nd
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Register to attend

https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/covid-19-support-public-health-orders#project
Resources
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency: Texas Education Agency (TEA)</th>
<th>Type of Questions:</th>
<th>Contact:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Grant questions</td>
<td>▪ Best practices on how to use tests in a school setting</td>
<td><a href="mailto:COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov">COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Public Health Guidance interplay with testing program</td>
<td>▪ Test Coordinator Support</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Questions or concerns about the testing vendors, including responsiveness, delivery, and reporting of results</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:TCECSupport@dshs.texas.gov">TCECSupport@dshs.texas.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learn More: Webinar about the grant

Monday, September 20\textsuperscript{th}
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Register to attend

Tuesday, September 21\textsuperscript{st}
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Register to attend

Both webinars cover the same information! A recording of the webinar will be provided on the TEA K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project website once the second webinar is complete.
Available Resources & Support Materials

On TEA’s Coronavirus Website:

▪ COVID Testing Project Playbook
▪ Vendor Resource Sheet
▪ List of opted in public and private school systems and allocation amounts
▪ Application for new school systems to opt in
▪ FAQ
▪ To the Administrator Addressed (TAA)
▪ Test Reporting Form – coming soon!
Overview/General Guidance of the ELC Grant from the federal government: https://www.openandsafeschools.org/

When to Test Calculator https://whentotest.org/

CDC COVID-19 School Testing Toolkit
This K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project is supported by the CDC of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $800m with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the Center for Disease Control Website.