



## **2021/2022 School Improvement Grant FAQs**

### **General Application Info**

#### **When can we see the grant application posted in eGrants?**

- The grant application will not be seen in eGrants until September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It will close on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### **Where can I access this grant application?**

- <https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/TSP/TEASecurePortal/Access/LogonServlet>

#### **So a school can receive both SIG and ESF but not both SIG and SAF (or ESF and SAF)?**

- While all three grants may be awarded, campuses will have to choose to accept the SIG and/or the ESF, **OR** the SAF on its own.

### **Participation & Opt-in**

#### **If we received the ESF Support Grant and will be engaging in those activities, is it necessary for us to participate in this grant opportunity as well?**

- If the LEA/Campus received an award for the ESF Focused Support Grant, it is not required that the LEA/campus participate in this grant opportunity.

#### **Who should the LEA contact if they did not complete the opt-in survey by July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 but want to opt-in now?**

- Please email Alice Keller at [alice.keller@tea.texas.gov](mailto:alice.keller@tea.texas.gov)

#### **If an LEA received 2020-2021 SIG funds, but chooses not to participate this year are they required to do any of the action steps Sarah is going through right now?**

- No, if the LEA does not want to 'opt-in' to interventions and support they do not need to go through this process. However, without an 'opt in' campus the LEA will not have access to any unused funds from the 2020-2021 SIG in the 2021-2022 SY.

#### **Can a campus choose to not apply for this grant if they had submitted to opt-in initially?**

- Yes, a campus can choose not to apply.



## **Funding**

**Is the total amount plus carryover subject to the 60% payroll cap?**

- Yes, once the carryover is complete the total award is subject to the 60% payroll cap.

**Is there any rationale for the significant change in grant amounts? I know our HS campus received \$100,000 last year for this grant.**

- The federal pause in accountability allowed the Division of School Improvement to redesign the funding supports offered to federally identified campuses. The ESF Focused Support Grant was launched to provide increased funding and access for all campuses with a federal identification.

**Is paying for a membership to a Texas Organization such as TEPSA (Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association) considered "lobbying funds" (referencing the final assurances page)?**

- No, that is not considered lobbying.

**Will there be reallocation of funds for districts that choose not to participate in the 2021-22 SIG program? Meaning - could the carryover include additional funds beyond what we calculate locally would be our carryover?**

- No. Carryover will only include the funding that was unused from the 2020-2021 SIG for the individual district. We will not be reallocating funds from other LEAs.

## **Carryover**

**Will Districts have to amend their budget report to get their carryover funds?**

- Yes, once the carry over process is complete the LEA will be alerted to return to the eGrants system and make an amendment to add the carry over funds to the budget.

**Is there a carryover fund percentage limit?**

- There is not a carryover percentage limit for this grant. All unused funds from the 2020-2021 SIG will carry over at the district level.

**Are carryover funds subject to the 50% limit when used in the LEA reserve?**

- Yes, the total award, including the carryover once that is applied is limited to 50% total limit at the LEA reserve.



## LEA Reserve

### **What are considered reserved funds?**

- Reserved funds can be used at the district level to support students who have exited or are entering the opt-in campus. The funds may be used on Title I, served campuses with in one level of the direct feeder pattern of the opt in campus.

### **Does the feeder pattern have to be Title I served?**

- Yes, feeder pattern campuses must be Title I served. This grant is funded with Title I - Part A funds.

## Pre-award

### **What is the pre-award window?**

- Pre-award begins 8/01/2021 and ends when the LEA submits their eGrants application.

### **Is the pre-award section required to be completed?**

- Pre-award is not required but any expenses encumbered prior to submission/stamp in date of grant application should be budgeted in pre-award.

## Plan4Learning

### **Will the budget amount will be prepopulated on the budget page in the web-based TIP?**

- The budget will not be pre-populated in the web-based TIP plan. The LEA will enter budgeted dollar amounts.

### **Does the data listed in the Plan4Learning Cycle Action Steps come from the 2020-2021 Application or are you adding action steps from scratch?**

- The cycle action steps are updated by the campus/LEA in the 806 web-based TIP at each cycle submissions for the 2021-2022 SY.

### **Will this be a separate login connected to TEA for those campuses that already use Plan4Learning?**

- The web-based TIP will be accessed through the ISAM platform for campuses that are awarded the 2021-2022 SIG.



**For budgeting in Plan4Learning, we are not including anything reserved at the district level?**

- No, budgeting in Plan4Learning is campus specific and will not include any LEA reserve amounts.

### **ESCs/VIPs**

**Are all applicants for this non-competitive SIG required to work with a vetted partner as they are with the competitive grant? If so, will this cause confusion when completing the PS3010 schedule if they think they can check Local Effort?**

- The 2021-2022 SIG requires 'evidence' of participation through either the ESC or an external VIP as a capacity. This does not have to be formal participation in a TIL cohort. The LEA can also check local efforts assuming they do in fact have the capacity to support. TEA School Improvement Specialists will be evaluating this evidence.

**Do campuses have to use funds with a VIP? IF so, does the LEA reserve allow them to keep 50% to not use with a VIP?**

- Campuses do not have to utilize a VIP. In order to meet grant requirements, an LEA must indicate if funds will be leveraged with one or more of following: the ESC, a VIP, or through local efforts (should the LEA have capacity).