## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Q: How many LEAs will this service be provided to?**

**A:** There is not a set number of LEAs that will receive a grant award for the Strong Foundations Framework Development Grant. All LEAs are welcome to apply!

**Q: How will LEAs be selected for this grant?**

**A:** LEAs will be selected for this grant upon completion of the grant application, sign off by the Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer (CAO), and agreeance to the assurances. If there are more LEAs that apply for this grant than budget allows for, TEA will consider several factors including diversity of district size, district location, math and literacy STAAR scores from school year 2021-22, and percent of economically disadvantaged students.

**Q: How long will support be provided to LEAs participating in this grant?**

**A:** Grant funds will be available from September 1, 2022, through April 30, 2025, with two awarding options. The first application cycle is in August of 2022 and the second will come out in the Winter of 2022. Most funds will be used in the first six months after the grant is awarded. The grant funds will expire in 2025.

**Q: What will be the expectations for deliverables and deadlines for districts that participate in this grant?**

**A:** The deliverables include, but are not limited to, a planning roadmap, communications plan and finalized instructional framework, evidence of a collective learning series on the research of how students learn in math and/or literacy, and a case study. Detailed information on these deliverables and timelines is located here: [Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant Assurances](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/district-or-charter-assurances-strong-foundations-math-and-literacy-framework-development-grant-fall-2022.pdf)

**Q: We are already working with a vendor/ESC with a different initiative, can we select them to work with on this grant?**

**A:** There is an opportunity to identify vendors on your application that you prefer to work with. You will also have the freedom to select a vendor of your choosing from the approved provider list that will be updated and shared by early August 2022.

**Q: What if we already have a strong instructional framework in math and literacy?**

**A:** TEA recommends attending the sessions to learn more about the grant opportunity and see if your current framework is aligned to the current research and is used to make large instructional decisions in the district. If it is not, this may be a great opportunity for LEAs to re-create an updated framework! If, after learning more, your framework is in alignment with the most up to date research and is heavily used by the LEA, this may not be a good grant opportunity for your LEA.

**Q: Is there a place where you can see the application questions without opening the application?**

**A:** On the Strong Foundations Grant webpage scroll down to Helpful Resources and select Grant Application Preview (PDF). [Strong Foundations Framework Grant | Texas Education Agency](https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/strong-foundations-framework-grant)

**Q: When will we see the approved provider list?**

**A:** TEA will be vetting and training approved providers in parallel to the district application process. A list of approved providers will be released early to mid-August.

**Q: What are the connections between this grant and RSSP and Reading Academies?**

**A:** The collective learning series LEAs will go through prior to building out a literacy framework will highlight the science of teaching reading that Reading Academies is built from in addition to other research topics in literacy that go beyond K-3.

Current RSSP LEAs may benefit from this grant opportunity to help drive their larger strategic planning efforts within a certain content area.

**Q: 70% of the grant award goes to approved providers for technical assistance, where does the other 30% go?**

**A:** The 30% of funding can be used for allowable expenses associated with the Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant.

**Q: Does each of the five steps of the Framework Development process have a deliverable? What are the deliverables?**

**A:** This document has all of the information regarding deliverables: [Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant Assurances](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/district-or-charter-assurances-strong-foundations-math-and-literacy-framework-development-grant-fall-2022.pdf)

**Q: What will the case study consist of?**

**A:** Each LEA will share information of their process in developing their framework with their Approved Provider to put into a narrative and concise format. The end results will help inform TEA of the many unique processes LEAs may take in developing and adopting an instructional framework and may support the LEA in running the process with new subject areas and support in the communication of the updated framework to their larger district and/or community.

**Q: Who is expected to attend the Community of Practice for the grant? Should it be the same person?**

**A**: The district lead ***and*** Superintendent or CAO (or equivalent role) should attend that Community of Practice sessions held monthly. The same personnel attending allows for continuity and an opportunity for them to connect and collaborate with other district leaders who are also engaged in the work of creating an instructional framework.

**Q: Is a pre-award available for this grant? If yes, when can we back-date expenses?**

 **A:** Yes, pre-awards will be allowable from September 1, 2022.

**Q: Is there a percentage or amount I need to spend my grant funds on a vendor and other allowable expenses?**

 **A:** Yes, districts must use a minimum of 70% of grant funds towards technical assistance unless otherwise approved by TEA.

**Q: How will the technical provider get up to speed on the context of my district to help us in the best way possible?**

**A:** TEA will be vetting technical assistance providers to support districts or charter in this grant opportunity. TEA will be checking TA providers’ track records of working with Texas school districts in the past, their approach to building relationships, and effectively gaining district context prior to approving a vendor to support districts or charters.

**Q: Can my district or charter apply to both grant terms to stagger the development of our math and literacy framework?**

**A:** Yes, if your district or charter is interested in developing a new math and literacy framework, TEA recommends staggering the creation. A district or charter is eligible to apply for both grant opportunities if focusing on a new framework development.