

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city. A wide river flows through the center, with a large bridge crossing it. The river reflects the sky and the surrounding buildings. On the left bank, there are green trees and a parking lot. On the right bank, there are several tall buildings, including a prominent skyscraper. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator

Informational Webinar | November 2, 2021 | 10 AM

Introductions

SB 15 Overview

Overview of VHPA

Timeline of Support

Application Process - Key Dates

Questions and Answers

# Introductions



In the chat box, please enter your **name, LEA, and type the number** that best describes where your LEA/organization is in the virtual program journey!

1. Initial phase of planning a virtual program
2. Ready to launch a program soon with some assistance
3. Currently running a virtual program
4. Assisting LEAs with running a virtual program

# Introductions



**Megha Kansra**  
Director of System  
Support and Innovation



**Nichole Aguirre**  
Director of Virtual  
Education and Innovation



**Ann Rajan**  
Virtual Education and  
Innovation District Support  
Specialist



# Before we start, a word on status of remote/hybrid learning in Texas

**For most students, the best place to learn is in the classroom**, and we encourage school systems to support more families returning to learning in the classroom as quickly as possible

While virtual and hybrid learning environments may not be the right choice for all students, **some families and students have also thrived in these environments and would like to see such options continue.**

The Virtual and Hybrid School Accelerator (VHSA) was set to launch in Fall'21 as support for LEAs until HB 1468 did not pass at the end of the legislative session.

Then, with the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 15 on September 9, 2021, LEAs now have an opportunity to receive remote ADA for instruction meeting requirements outlined in SB 15.

Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) is open to LEAs who meet the eligibility criteria and have a virtual/hybrid program or are launching one in SY22-23.

*Senate Bill 15 (SB 15) was signed into law on September 9, 2021.*

Local educational agencies (LEAs) may now receive full ADA funding for students who attend local remote learning programs that meet the requirements set by SB 15.

In effect through September 1, 2023.

# What does SB 15 allow?

Modality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Synchronous instruction</li><li>• Asynchronous instruction</li><li>• Combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction</li></ul>
Grades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• K-12</li></ul>
Retroactive funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For LEAs who met all requirements of SB 15 in SY21-22, retroactive funding prior to bill passage for remote learning delivered</li></ul>
Additional flexibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hybrid learning: Mix of on-campus and remote instruction is allowable</li><li>• Ability to contract with another LEA</li></ul>

# LEAs must meet key requirements in order to receive funding under SB 15



## LEA Eligibility

- C or higher performance rating



## Program Requirements

- At least one STAAR-assessed grade level, or complete high school program
- Provide families an on-campus option
- Administer assessments to remote students in same manner as on-campus students



## Teacher Requirements

- Professional development on virtual instruction
- No concurrent instruction



# LEAs may only enroll up to 10% of their total enrollment in a local remote learning program

## Who counts toward the 10% cap?

- Any student who enrolled for even a portion of the year in local remote instruction under SB 15
- Any student who received more than 50% of instructional days via remote learning, including students who are:
  - Medically fragile
  - Placed in a remote learning setting by an admission, review, and dismissal committee
  - Receiving accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - Served via remote conferencing

# For a student to count toward ADA under SB 15, certain eligibility requirements must be met (1 of 2)

Based on student information from the preceding school year, if a student received remote instruction for a majority of their instructional days in the previous school year, they also must have:

- Achieved satisfactory achievement or higher on each STAAR assessment administered.
- Had a number of unexcused absences that is 10 percent or fewer out of all instructional days.
- Earned a grade of C or higher in the foundation curriculum courses taken virtually or remotely in the preceding school year.

## For a student to count toward ADA under SB 15, certain eligibility requirements must be met (2 of 2)

If a student did not receive a majority of their instructional time in the preceding school year via remote instruction, then the criteria noted above do not apply to determine student eligibility for remote learning. However, criteria noted in the next section apply to all students.

Based on student information from the current school year:

- The student is enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school.
- The student has reasonable access to in-person services at a district or school facility.
- The student has fewer than 10 unexcused absences over a six-month period.

# SB 15

## Questions and Answers



The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of Austin, Texas. It shows the city skyline with various skyscrapers, including the Frost Tower. In the foreground, there is a wide river (the Colorado River) with a bridge crossing it. The river reflects the sky and the city. There are green trees and parks along the riverbanks. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)

# Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator

The VHPA is a support for LEAs interested in launching or have already launched a virtual or hybrid program. Participating LEAs will receive **technical assistance** support in the **design, implementation, and improvement** of a virtual or hybrid program.

The VHPA will offer support through  
**August 31, 2023.**





We are anchored in one key goal in the Virtual Hybrid Program Accelerator

We help LEAs launch and iterate on  
high quality virtual and hybrid schools  
in which families, students, and staff thrive

# Virtual and Hybrid Models + VHPA Support

## 100% Virtual Academy/Program

Program model in which **students attend school remotely for 100%** of the school week

## Hybrid Model

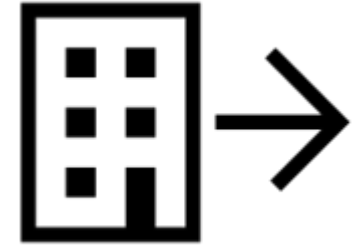
Program model in which **students attend school in-person and remotely** for different portions of the school week



**1:1 technical assistance** to coach your virtual/hybrid school leaders and directly support staff



**Cohort learning opportunities** led by content experts on key topics (e.g., engaging students virtually, LMS)



**“Field trips”** to see other cohort LEAs’ models in action

**Eligible LEAs could consider a virtual or hybrid program, as defined below:**

- Virtual Program – one virtual program set up to support all remote learners in the LEA; other students attend school on campus
- Hybrid Program – hybrid grade(s) with learners who are on-campus part of the day or week and remote for the rest of the day or week

**LEAs may apply under either option:**

- Individual LEAs establishing a virtual or hybrid program
- "Consortiums" of multiple LEAs that are committed to standing up a single virtual program to serve their collective student populations. A consortium of multiple LEAs should apply to this program as a single applicant with a single application

The consortium option may especially be a fit for smaller LEAs looking to pool resources into a common virtual school and/or LEAs with a small number of expected remote learners in the coming school year and beyond

A consortium could also function such that one or more LEAs is/are contracting with and sending their remote learners to a virtual program operated by a different LEA

# Framing: What the Virtual Hybrid Program Accelerator IS and IS NOT

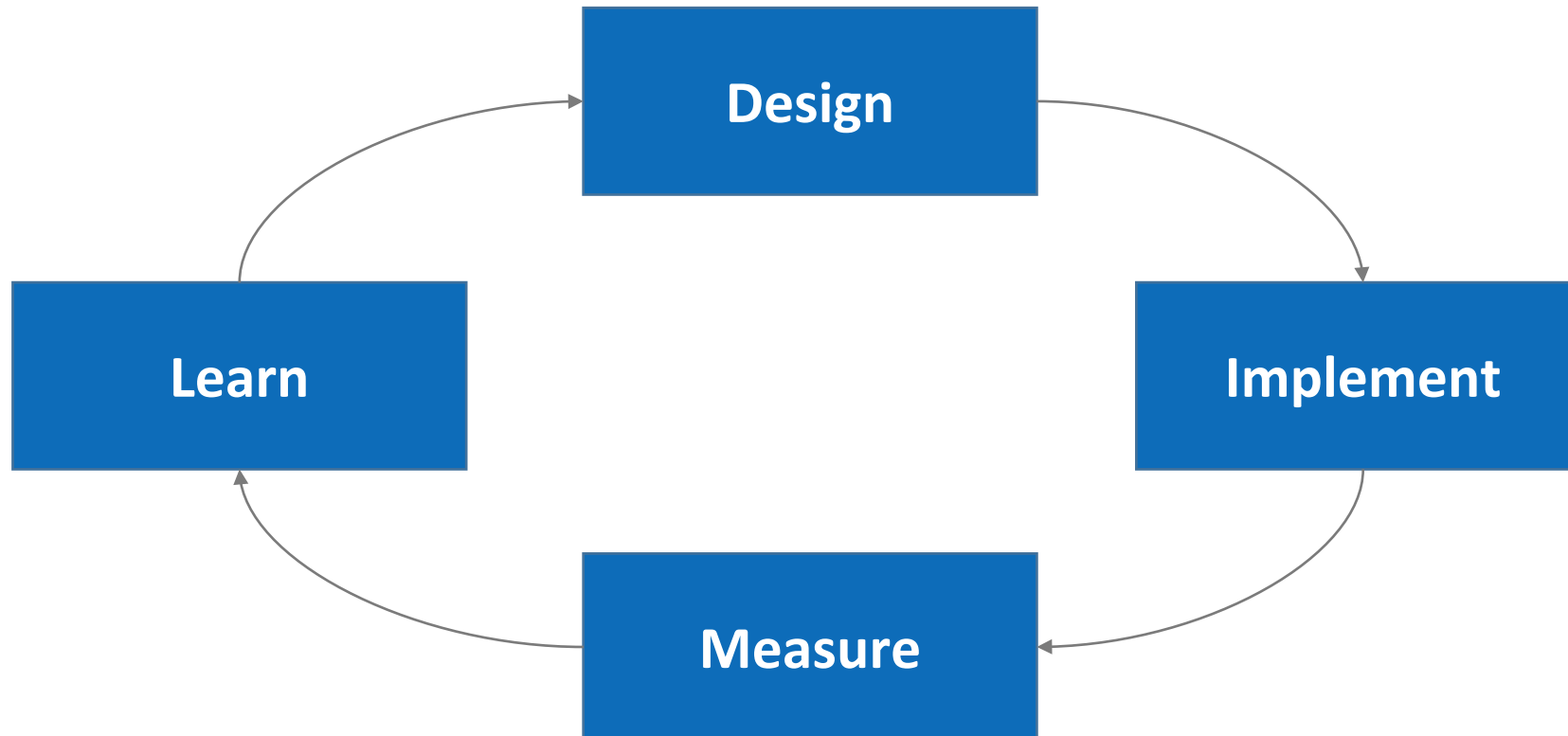
## The VHPA is...

- **Technical assistance** in design and implementation of virtual/hybrid program options approved by legislature
- **In-kind** services

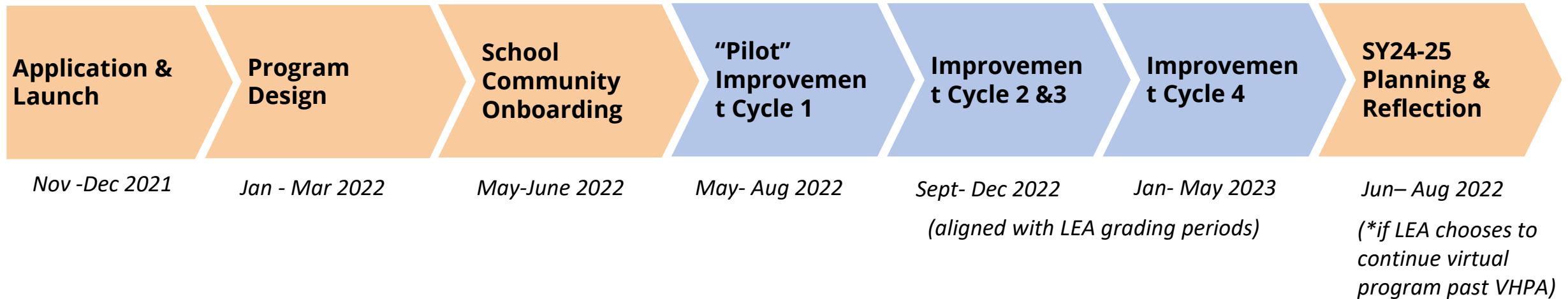
## The VHPA is NOT...

- A provider of direct **grant funds** to your LEA
- An **authorizer** of virtual/hybrid schools
- **Policy-setter** of virtual/hybrid options
- A replacement for following **compliance** guidelines set forth by legislature or TEA on virtual/hybrid options
- **Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN)**

In VHPA, we implement in learning and iteration cycles so that we are continuously improving



# Our timeline supports LEAs from planning to setup to cycles of implementation and improvement

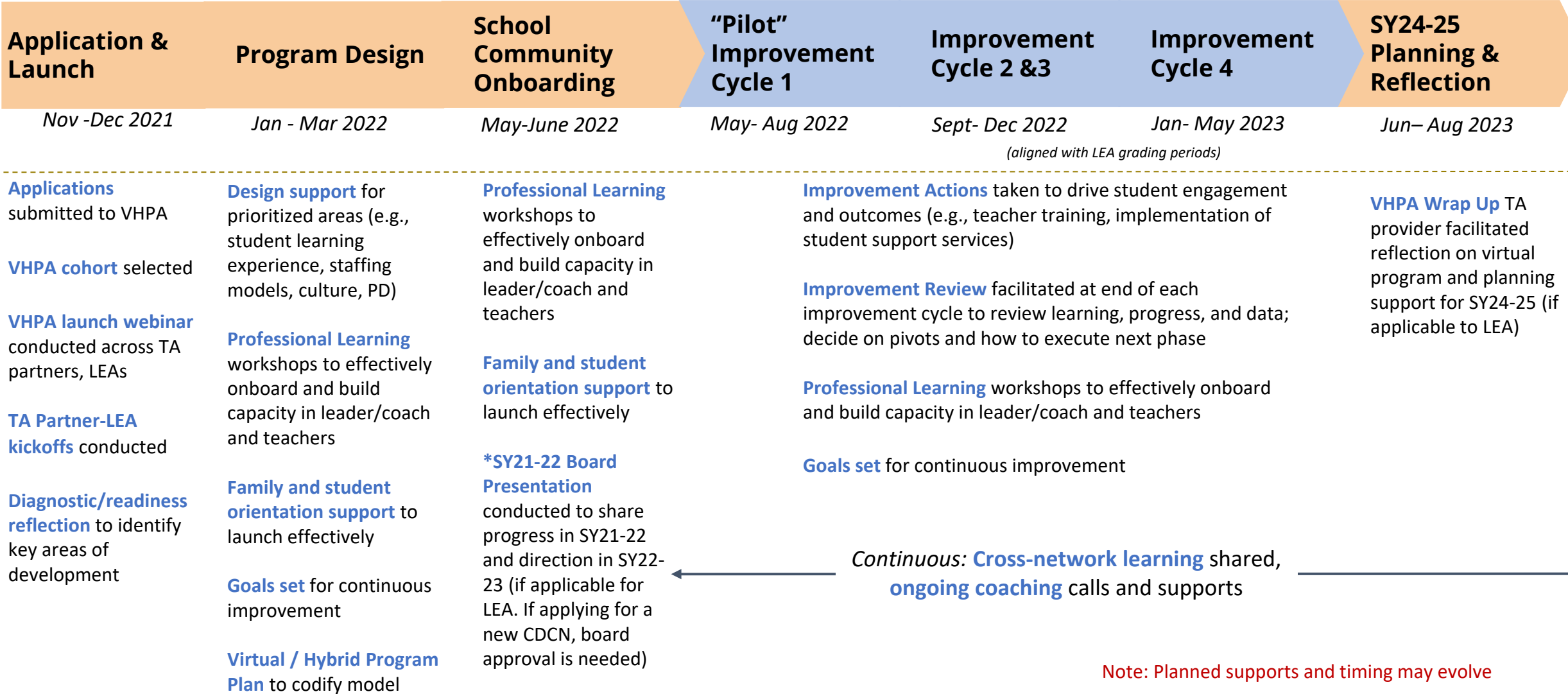


Note: Planned supports and timing may evolve





# Our timeline supports LEAs from planning to setup to cycles of implementation and improvement



Note: Planned supports and timing may evolve

# LEAs must make a few key commitments (1 of 3)

1. The LEA will **commit to implementing the improvements planned via VHPA** in the LEA-led planning process
2. The LEA will **commit to VHPA network events and supports:**

Support/Event	Duration	Frequency
<b>VHPA Kickoff</b> <i>(Initial meeting between LEA VHPA team and TA provider)</i>	90-120 min	Once (start of the program)
<b>LEA Project Lead and TA provider Collaboration Meetings</b> <i>(Regular check-in and support calls between project lead and TA provider)</i>	60 min (minimum)	Weekly to every two weeks
<b>TA Provider and LEA VHPA team Collaboration Meetings</b> <i>(Meetings between VHPA team members and TA provider. LEA team members join as needed based on the meeting topic/agenda)</i>	60 min (minimum)	Once every two weeks or month
<b>Improvement Review</b> <i>(Post every improvement cycle, the VHPA LEA team and TA provider meet to reflect on the past cycle and determine action steps for the next cycle)</i>	90 mins	Four times over the program
<b>TEA progress check-in</b> <i>(TEA VHPA team and LEA project lead meeting)</i>	45 mins	Once every 1-2 months

# LEAs must make a few key commitments (2 of 3)

3. The LEA will **designate a VHPA Team** that is multi-stakeholder and equipped to advance the work

VHPA Team Role	Guidance
<b>Senior Project Sponsor</b> *Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer recommended	<b>Required</b>
<b>VHPA Project Lead / Primary Contact</b>	<b>Required</b>
<b>Curriculum &amp; Instruction Lead</b>	<b>Required</b>
<b>Technology Lead</b>	<b>Required</b>
<b>Teacher Leader Group</b> 2-3 faculty members that collectively represent different core contents and grade levels	<b>Required</b>
<b>Virtual/Hybrid Program Leader(s)</b> *Recommend including at least 2-3 potential school leaders	<b>Required</b>
<b>Data Lead</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Diverse Learner Lead</b> *Special education or multi-tiered system of supports lead recommended	<b>Recommended</b>

*\*Note – team members may fulfill more than one role*

## LEAs must make a few key commitments (3 of 3)

4. The LEA will **collaborate with the TEA and TA partners**, providing classroom, tool, and data access when needed
  - 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: 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 VHPA program successes and areas for improvement.*
  - 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.
  - TA partners will collaborate with your team to **establish and assess progress against data baselines** periodically throughout the project
  - The TEA intends to **share helpful tools, training, and resources** developed by VHPA participants across the VHPA network and Texas schools broadly

# Key selection criteria are program alignment, commitment, need, and application quality

## Readiness

- Plans and actions underway to launch a virtual/hybrid school in SY22-23
- Planning reflects lessons learned over previous remote learning operation

## Commitment

- Ability to commit VHPA required team members
- Ability to meet program commitments
- *If Consortium*: Consortium members identified, able to meet commitments

## Program Alignment

- Demonstrated family/student interest in continuing virtual options
- Openness to innovative school design and instructional delivery
- Continuous improvement mindset

## Application Quality

- Clarity and strategic focus
- Completion

*Note: Subject to change*

# New Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator

Date	Event
October 21, 2021	<b>Applications Release:</b> The application will be available on the Remote Learning webpage.
November 2, 2021	<b>Information Webinar:</b> Interested LEAs may learn more by registering for and attending a webinar
November 12, 2021	<b>Application Due:</b> LEAs submit completed applications to <a href="mailto:VHPA@tea.texas.gov">VHPA@tea.texas.gov</a> . These will be processed on a rolling basis until the application deadline.
November 8-19, 2021	<b>Zoom Interviews:</b> TEA staff will conduct zoom interviews with LEA Program leaders to add context to the written application and make an acceptance decision.
December 1, 2021	<b>Acceptance:</b> Accepted applicants will be invited to join the program.
December 3, 2021	<b>Cohort-Launch:</b> All accepted LEAs will participate in a cohort launch webinar.

[More information on VHPA on the TEA Remote Learning Webpage](#)



## Remote Learning



### Remote Learning Overview

Local educational agencies (LEAs) currently have multiple options for providing remote learning for partial or full average daily attendance (ADA) outside of the Texas Virtual Schools Network. These options are outlined in our [Non-TXVSN Remote Instruction Overview Document](#).

Below is additional information on two options in particular: (1) remote conferencing; (2) remote instruction under senate bill 15.

### Learning Support and Programs

[Credit by Examination](#)

[Mathematics and Reading Academies](#)

[Spanish Language Support](#)

[Technology Planning](#)

[Texas Gateway](#)

[Texas Virtual School Network](#)

[Remote Learning](#)



# VHPA Questions and Answers

# Contact Information

Email us at:

**VHPA@TEA.TEXAS.GOV**

# Let us know your interest!



In the chat, share how your LEA might leverage the support of the Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator.