

SY 2021-2022 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project Eligibility Requirements & Considerations

BACKGROUND:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) received an \$800 million grant from the federal government to support school-based screening testing activities intended to support the reopening of schools for in-person K-12 instruction.

DSHS has partnered with TEA to provide these resources to Texas K-12 school systems to support items or activities aimed at implementation of prevention and mitigation strategies necessary to curtail the spread of COVID-19

Before opting into the SY K-12 [2021-2022 COVID-19 Testing Project](#) please carefully read the considerations and requirements. To be compliant with the federal grant, adherence to the requirements is non-negotiable.

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY:

1. Any private K-12 school system interested in participating in this program should complete this application regardless if they previously opted in the state's testing program. **Private schools that filled out an application for the new SY 2021-2022 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project starting September 9, 2021, do not need to reapply as we have already captured you in the system.**

Public schools that previously opted in do not need to reapply. Any school systems that did not previously opt-in must apply before they are considered eligible.

2. Pre-K-only providers and/or daycare providers are NOT eligible for participation in this testing program.

3. School systems where pre-K/daycare students share a building/co-mingle with K-12 students are eligible for participation in the testing program.

- If you applied to the new SY 2021-2022 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project starting September 9, 2021 or later and did not include your Pre-K staff and student counts but need to based upon this new information, please email COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov.

4. The City of Houston also received funds through the same federal grant program to support a [set of public and private school systems](#) within the City of Houston boundaries. If you are in the Houston area, please review the [list](#) of school systems the City of Houston will support and determine if you are considered eligible for their program. If so, once you apply, you will receive a reduced allocation to use through November 15 through TEA's program, after which you will transition to being supported by the City of Houston's grant.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

TEA and DSHS have several best practices for use in terms of why, when, and who to test, which can be found within the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project Playbook within the [Public Health Orders Card](#) on TEA's COVID-19 website; however, districts can adapt these practices locally if desired, subject to the constraint that **no one can be required to take these tests and the tests can only be used for school system staff and/or students.**

We also recommend you spend a few minutes reviewing the K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project FAQ located within the [Public Health Orders Card](#) on TEA's COVID-19 website. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact covidcasereport@tea.texas.gov.

TESTING PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

1. Each school system will need to identify one test coordinator to serve as the point of contact for DSHS and TEA.
2. School systems will have the opportunity to select the testing vendor(s) that meet their local needs.
3. School systems must ensure they have the appropriate space and requirements to accommodate any type of test they opt to receive and administer at the local level.
4. School systems will be eligible to receive an allotment from their identified vendor. As school systems apply, TEA will update the posted allocation spreadsheet within [Public Health Orders Card](#) with their allocation amounts within 2 business days.
5. Each school system must meet specific testing reporting requirements using a web-based portal associated with the vendor(s) they select if they choose to receive and administer tests at the local level.
6. Public school campuses must notify individuals consistent with TEA's Public Health Guidance of any positive test results.
7. All school systems must notify their local public health authority in the case of a positive COVID case.

Application link: https://tea.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02mA414jgmr7y3s

REQUIRED NOTICE:

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 \$800 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.