



Frequently Asked Questions

This document will provide frequently asked questions to guide our partners in their decision-making process to determine which grants are the best fit, aligned to district goals and needs.

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General Questions and Resources

Refer to the General Webinar FAQ deck [here](#), for information on Program Guidelines, Webinar Decks, Guidance Docs, and more.

Below are the FAQs related to the LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Supports (LIFT SI PLC):

Section A: Program Overview

What is the purpose of the LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support grant?

- The LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support grant is a targeted, Title I-funded initiative designed to enhance implementation support for campuses participating in the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) program that are also identified for School Improvement. This grant provides additional resources, such as expanded PLC facilitation, increased observation and feedback, and individualized coaching to strengthen instructional systems and ensure effective use of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). The goal is to deepen and sustain effective instructional practices by reinforcing the conditions necessary for strong HQIM implementation, ultimately improving student outcomes on federally identified campuses.

For LIFT SI PLC Supports and Instructional Leadership grants - do we have to be both Title I AND Federal Identified, or does Title I alone qualify?

- For the LIFT-SI PLC grant the eligibility would be: Title 1 and Federal Accountability Designation. Additionally, you will need to apply for and be awarded the LIFT grant in order to receive the LIFT SI PLC grant.

Are federally identified schools/campuses required to participate in the embedded grants in alignment with the improvement process? Will this replace the Title I, ESF School Improvement Grant and other ESF grants?

- The ESF-FSG 2024-2026 is the last iteration of the ESF grant. In LASO IV, Title I funds are going to support LIFT SI PLC and the SI CISG grant.

Is the grant open for any Federal Accountability designation (ATS, TSI, or Comprehensive)?

- Yes, the LIFT SI PLC Add on grant is open for any federally identified campus. Each LASO grant has its own unique eligibility, prioritization, and criteria. The following grants prioritize Title I and Federal Accountability Designation:
 - LIFT SI PLC Grant
 - School Improvement Curriculum & Instruction Supports Grant
 - School Action Fund (SAF)

Are more points awarded for Comprehensive Campuses?

- There aren't more points awarded, per se, but Comprehensive campuses are in the first priority tier.

If we choose an HQIM other than Texas Bluebonnet Learning for 2026-2027, will LASO be available for that implementation?

- LIFT and the LIFT PLC Add-On are only available for the implementation of Bluebonnet Learning.

Can a district receive the add-on grant if one is in planning phase and not implementing Bluebonnet Learning?

- The SI PLC Add-On grant is designed specifically to support observation and feedback cycles, coaching, and professional learning communities (PLCs) on campuses that are implementing the Bluebonnet instructional materials. If a district is in planning and not yet implementing a Bluebonnet learning product, they would not be eligible for the LIFT SI PLC Add-on.

When districts are considering applying for SI PLC are feeder schools eligible for the PLC support under Cycle 4?

- The SI PLC Add-On grant is designed specifically to support observation and feedback cycles, coaching, and professional learning communities (PLCs) on campuses that are implementing LIFT. The school must be captured under LIFT to be eligible for the LIFT add on.

Is the SI PLC add-on only for SI campuses implementing Bluebonnet resources?

- Yes, that is correct.

For the Add on grant, would each campus in a district need to do an application or the district does one for all the eligible campuses?

- There is one application for LIFT and LIFT SI PLC Add On. You will select your campuses and submit one application.

Can you explain what PLC support will look like for a district planning to implement another HQIM not Bluebonnet?

- The SI PLC Add-On grant is designed specifically to support Bluebonnet Learning implementation by implementing additional observation and feedback cycles, coaching, and professional learning communities (PLCs) on campuses that are implementing LIFT. If a district is planning to implement a different HQIM, they would not be eligible for the LIFT SI PLC Add-on.

If our district implemented Bluebonnet Math in the 25-26 SY, are we eligible for LIFT and PLC add-ons?

- The LIFT SI PLC Add-On Grant is designed for campuses in school improvement who have also been awarded the LIFT grant in LASO IV. The LIFT Grant has a unique set of eligibility requirements. Visit the [LASO webpage](#) to learn more about the LIFT Grant and find out if your school system is eligible.

What if we decide for add ons later on - can we apply for those in additional years?

- We are unsure of what opportunities will be available in LASO Cycle 5 and beyond.

I wanted to confirm my understanding regarding the SI PLC LIFT Add-On. Am I correct that campuses may be eligible for up to \$120K in funding, which could support the salaries of two Instructional Coaches to lead PLCs - one for RLA and one for Math - should the district choose to implement the grant in that way? (Updated 11/07/25)

- Yes, campuses may be eligible for up to \$120,000 through the SI PLC LIFT Add-On. This is \$60,000 per instructional leader supported. School systems are required to use 50% of their award to contract with an approved provider. Stipends and salaries are allowable with the remaining 50% of grant funds, if the district chooses to implement the grant in that way.

On the application PDF we noticed that the LIFT add-on campuses cannot overlap with the LIFT campuses. I'm wanting to confirm if this is true or if I have misinterpreted the assurances? (Updated 11/07/25)

- Campuses listed in the LIFT Add-On PLC support should also be included in your main LIFT application if they are identified for school improvement. The Add-On is designed to provide additional support to those campuses already participating in LIFT.

For school systems applying for LIFT add on SI PLC does this assurance recommend that they hire an additional administrator to handle only criteria related to PLCs or could one administrator be assigned to LIFT and another to SI PLC? (Updated 11/07/25)

- Districts do not need to hire a new administrator for the SI PLC add-on. The key is that the person leading PLCs must be distinct from those receiving coaching through LIFT. If an administrator is involved in both, they can only be funded for one role, not both.

In working through the LIFT Add-on application and Program Guidelines, I noticed a cap on the amount a district could receive for LIFT, but not for LIFT Add-on. Is there a maximum amount that can be awarded to a LEA? (Updated 11/07/25)

- LIFT Add On Grant is a campus-based grant, not district-based. Therefore, the funding is campus-based. The max per campus is \$120,000. You can find this information at the top of page 11 on the [Program Guidelines](#).

Can a district apply for the LIFT PLC Add-on if they are doing the LIFT Planning year only? Or is the SI PLC for LIFT Implementation only? (Updated 11/07/25)

- This add-on is designed to enhance LIFT implementation, not the planning year. So if a district is only participating in the LIFT planning year, they would not be eligible for the SI PLC add-on.

Are smaller rural districts that have interlocal agreements governed by TEC §25.039 prioritized? (Updated 11/07/25)

- Yes, the current language now reads, *School districts without a full feeder pattern (K–12) will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. Districts with a full feeder pattern will be prioritized. Districts that have an interlocal agreement with another school system governed by TEC §25.039 will be considered as having a full K–12 feeder pattern.*

Section B: Application and Submission

How do I get a link to the application?

- Links were emails to Superintendents on October 3, 2025. If you need to request a new link for your school system, please fill out the correct form on the TEA LASO 4 webpage: [LASO Cycle 4 | Texas Education Agency](#)

When is the deadline to apply?

- The Deadline to apply is December 3, 2025 at 5:00 PM CT

Section C: Funding and Compliance

When will I receive my NOGA?

- NOGAs are issued in order received and anticipated to be issued within 60 days of successful eGrants submission of acceptance and budget workbook in eGrants.

What are the allowable uses of funds?

- Allowable use of funds can be found on page 15 of the Program Guidelines: [LIFT Add-On | Program Guidelines](#)

Section D: Implementation and Monitoring

What are the key program commitments?

- Committing to implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–27 school year.
- Securing approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
- Contracting with the same provider from the LASO Cycle 4 State Approved Provider list that is providing technical assistance for the LIFT program for PLC supports.

- Engaging relevant school system and campus leaders, as well as teachers and instructional coaches, in upfront training, implementation support, and coaching. These individuals must be in addition to and distinct from leaders receiving coaching through the LIFT program.
- Submitting all required grant deliverables.
- Submitting provider contracts and required funding summary reports to TEA.
- Appointing a designated lead as the primary point of contact and identifying at least two additional contacts.
- Permitting Approved Providers access to campuses to provide in-person support.
- Ensuring teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols.
- Providing print materials for all participating teachers and students.
- Following the year-long scope and sequence for the instructional materials.
- Meeting the minimum number of instructional minutes for the instructional materials.
- Using grant funds in alignment with the required allocation structure and ensuring all expenditures support the goals of the LIFT program.
- Participating in required TEA-led activities, including a grant kick-off.

All of these can be found on page 14 of the program guidelines: [LIFT SI PLC Add-on Program Guidelines](#)

How will performance be evaluated?

- The school system must submit data as requested by TEA, in accordance with TEA guidance, including, but not limited to:
 - Deliverables submissions using TEA-provided templates
 - Surveys of teachers, coaches, school leaders/campus administrators, and school system leads prior to and during the school year administered by TEA
 - Submission of observation and assessment data

Section E: Support and Resources

Where can I find additional resources or training?

- TEA LASO 4 webpage: [LASO Cycle 4 | Texas Education Agency](#)

What support can I expect from an Approved Provider?

- PLC facilitation
- Observation and feedback
- Individualized coaching
- Strategic implementation support
- Consistent support across LIFT and LIFT SI PLC

How can we access the list of eligible schools for the LIFT ad-on grant?

- A list will be published on the LASO website tea.texas.gov/LASO

Section D: Contact Information

Who should I contact for questions?

- For technical/application assistance: laso@tea.texas.gov
- For program assistance: lift@tea.texas.gov