

UPDATED
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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.

LASO Cycle 4 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)- PREP Preservice Residency Program	1
Frequently Asked Questions	1
General Questions and Resources	2
Section A: Program Overview	2
Section B: Application and Submission	3
Section C: Funding and Compliance	4
Section D: Implementation and Monitoring	7
Section E: Support and Resources	8
Section F: Contact Information	9

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 PREP Preservice Residency Program.

Section A: Program Overview

Is pathway 2 participation required for participation in PREP Preservice Residency program?

- Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) District and Campus Leader (Pathway 2) Design Sessions are a required component for school systems participating in PREP Mentorship Program. If a school system is only participating in PREP Preservice Residency Program in School Year 2026-27, they are strongly encouraged to send their cooperating (host) teachers to Mentoring Educator (Pathway 1) training. The District and Campus Leader pathway will not be required for the PREP Preservice Residency Program. Section B: Application and Submission

Are mentoring teachers for PREP Preservice Residency now being called cooperating teachers instead of host teachers?

- The language in TEC § 21.904 (<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.21.htm#21.904>) uses the term "cooperating teachers". According to TAC §228.95. Host Teacher Qualifications and Responsibilities, "cooperating teachers" who are supporting teacher residents are referred to "host teachers" and must be eligible and perform duties to support residency candidates (<http://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sbec-rules-tac/sbec-tac-currently-in-effect/ch228f.pdf>). For the purposes of clarity they should be referred to as "host teachers". The current Commissioner of Education rulemaking process proposes to clarify and align naming conventions for mentoring educators to the conventions used in TAC Ch. 228 Educator Preparation Program Requirements.

Does participation in the PREP Residency program require participation in the PREP mentorship program?

- No, school systems are not required to participate in the PREP Residency Preservice Program in order to participate in the PREP Mentorship Program although it is highly encouraged.

Could a school system require a resident candidate to teach for 1 or 2 years in their district? I know this is allowable with TSS grant 25-27, but I wanted to double-check if it was allowed for LASO?

- There is no statutory requirement regarding beginning teacher employment in the school system where they completed their residency program. School systems and their partners will be responsible for establishing local implementation parameters. It is best practice to work with EPP partners when making such decisions.

Will programs not offering residency be part of the PREP allotment?

- Yes, these programs will be eligible for the PREP Preservice Traditional program, which will be part of the LASO Cycle 5. LASO 5 is scheduled to open in Fall 2026 for implementation in the 2027-2028 academic year.

Are school systems who operate on a 4-day school week eligible for the PREP Program Allotment?

- The PREP Allotment Programs do not have any restriction on instructional days. However, there are restrictions on instructional days regarding resident teacher clinical experience, which would impact eligibility for the PREP Residency Preservice Program. Please see the information below: PREP Preservice Residency - A resident's clinical experience must span a full academic year, including the first and last instructional days, and total at least 750 hours of clinical experience (with a minimum of 21 hours per week). The resident is required to be hired as an at-will employee of the school system. Residency candidates must engage in co-teaching and lead instruction for a minimum of 400 hours.

Will EPPs that secure approval for residency programming during the 2025-2026 academic year be eligible to participate in 2026-2027 LASO-related programming? Has there been a date of application or window of time when a program can apply to get approved by TEA to implement a Residency if not approved in the past?

- Educator Preparation Programs must be SBEC approved by December 1, 2025, to participate in the PREP allotment for the 2026-2027 school year; this means that the last date for SBEC approval would have been during the September 2025 SBEC meeting.

Section B: Application and Submission**Will there be a place for me to add multiple EPP contacts to my LASO 4 PREP Preservice Residency Application?**

- For the application, please add the point of contact from one partnership for the time being. There will be an additional verification step where you will be able to add multiple EPP contacts when all eligible participants confirm participation in the allotment program between April-May 2026. At this time eligible participants will also submit written agreements between the SBEC approved EPPs and the school system.

Is it encouraged to ask for 40 residents even though you are starting a residency but forecasting scaling and sustaining the program?

- Yes. School systems are encouraged to make their best prediction of projected residents they will place in the 2026-2027 school year. Since this is an annual allotment, the school system may fund up to 40 residents annually. In April-May 2026, school systems may refine their projection when they verify participation on the allotment.

Will school systems after applying for the PREP Preservice Residency be able to adjust the number of residents if the projected numbers have changed? (updated on 11/10/25)

- Yes, there will be a verification of participation process in mid-April-May. During this time, school systems will confirm participation in PREP program(s) and they will be able to verify participating teacher residents. Please consider the application information you are providing as an early estimate of the number of residents you seek to fund through the PREP Preservice Residency Program.

Section C: Funding and Compliance

Can left over funds for PREP Preservice Residency be used to provide a stipend for assigned program manager?

- Yes, success-based funding generated by teacher residents that attain the enhanced standard certificate may be used to implement the PREP Preservice Residency Program. Funds could be used to support programmatic costs such as a program manager, release time, etc.

What if the resident teacher is seeking certification in multiple areas (example: EC-6 and SpEd EC-12) and they need two mentors/cooperating teachers to accommodate their certification areas- does the \$2,000 for the cooperating teacher get split?

- If the partnership determines that the resident will benefit from two placements, they partnership must decide how they will compensate the host teachers and meet the minimum stipend of \$2,000.

Will the candidate receive the allotment money directly?

- No, initial funds and success-based funding flows directly to the district through the Foundational School Program (FSP). An additional allotment of success-based funding flows directly to the EPP.

If a resident completes their first-year teaching in a different district than where they completed their residency, is there an impact on success-based funding for the EPP?

- No. For EPPs to receive the success-based funding, the resident must complete all the requirements of the enhanced certificate and one year teaching at any Texas public school system.

Are districts able to use the remaining discretionary funds in the residency preservice allotment toward the \$20K minimum pay for residents, or will this need to come directly from the LEA's local funds? To clarify, how much is the school system paying out of pocket for 2 residents? Is it \$20,000?

- Yes. the school system must match at least \$10K towards the resident's minimum salary of \$20K. The school system may use success-based funding generated from candidate completion of standard certification requirements in the future. School systems should consider how they might locally reallocate and/or reinvest local funds to address the \$10,000 match for each candidate. LASO 4 also offers the Texas Strategic Staffing Grant, a service that

supports school systems to address teacher resident pay and local instructional needs through implementation of strategic staffing models. In these models, the school system may reallocate, for example, tutoring funds to pay the resident's salary when the resident's role includes support for high impact tutoring models while they are not completing their clinical teaching hours and coursework.

By what date does a resident need to earn their enhanced certificate so that the district and EPP can receive the success-based funding?

- The candidate must complete all of the residency certification requirements in one year. For example, if the candidate begins their residency clinical experience by the first day of school in August 2026, they must complete their residency and certification requirements by the end of the school year.

Can you provide more information about the success based funding for EPPs in the Preservice Residency Program?

- For the PREP Residency program, success-based funding for the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) will be generated after the candidate successfully completes enhanced certification requirements and teaches for one full year in a Texas public school. Completion of these requirements will generate \$10,000 per residency candidate, along with an additional \$1,500 for each candidate who completes the reading and math academies requirements. More information will be provided at a later date on the specifics of funding dispersal.

Can paraprofessionals participate in the Residency funding option? For example, it is highly doable for a paraprofessional to complete the Enhanced Residency requirements, but it seems to receive funding through this pathway, they would need to be hired as a resident.

- Yes, that is correct, paraprofessionals can fulfill their preparation requirements through a teacher residency program as part of the Preservice Residency Program. Given the route's requirements, including the 21 hours/ week of sheltered practice in a coteaching setting, the school system would have to ensure the para professional could meet those requirements, meaning that their role and responsibilities would likely need adjustment. A para-professional transitioning into a residency program would also be designated as a teacher residency role in PEIMs.

The \$20,000 salary for the teacher resident. \$20,000 includes benefits. For example, actual salary is \$17,500 and then \$2,500 in fringe benefits for a total of \$20,000. Is that acceptable?

- Statutory requirements state that the teacher resident must receive a \$20,000 minimum salary (TEC § 21.904). The school system may consider providing candidates with the option to opt into fringe benefits.

What are the "high needs multiplier" campus qualifications? What is the specific math used to determine the funding amounts associated with the "high needs multiplier"?

- TEC, 48.157 establishes the funding requirements for the PREP allotment. Within this section, the High Needs and Rural factors for campuses participating in the PREP Grow Your Own and Preservice Programs are determined by the formula described in TEC §48.112 (e) and (f). Within this formula, for each campus in the school system: "(e) [...] a point value for each student at a district campus shall be assigned as follows: (1) 0, for a student for whom the district does not receive a compensatory education allotment under Section 48.104(b) or (e); or (2) 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, or 4.0, respectively, from least to most severe economic disadvantage according to the census block group in which the student resides, for a student for whom the district receives a compensatory education allotment under Section 48.104(b) or (e). (f) If the campus at which a student is enrolled is classified as a rural campus, a student is assigned the point value two tiers higher than the student's point value determined under Subsection (e)(1) or (2)."

If a resident earns the Enhanced Standard certificate this year (2025-2026) will the EPP be eligible for the funding reimbursement when the resident successfully completes their first year of teaching?

- No, only residents that begin their residency clinical experience in SY 26-27 are eligible for the first allotment cycle.

We can use both the Texas Strategic staffing for residency grant and the LASO prep program residency program to make the \$20,000 salary for yearlong residents? Was that correct?

- Per the program guidelines, funds from the 2026-2028 Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant may only be used towards: salary or time and effort of School System Strategic Staffing Leads, which are selected staff member(s) that supports grant program implementation, In-state travel, supplies and materials, and costs for conferences or trainings directly related to design and implementation of this grant are also allowable (not to exceed \$10,000 per year), and Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Member travel to conferences, trainings, or Design or Implementation Year activities directly related to this grant. School systems who are awarded the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant who go through the two-year design and implementation process of Texas Strategic Staffing will learn, in 2027-2028, how to reallocate and reinvest district funds to help with the cost match requirement for PREP Residency resident stipend in the following years.

Can a school system fund more than 40 residency candidates? (updated 11/10/25)

- In 2026-2027, school systems can receive PREP funding for up to 40 resident candidates through the PREP Residency Program and up to 40 candidates may be funded at the rate generated through the PREP Traditional Program. If a school system opts to fund additional candidates at the reduced rate, they must still ensure that the candidate receive the minimum \$20K salary and that the host teacher receives the minimum \$2K stipend as required in

statute (TEC, 21.904). Please view the webinar resource deck for the specific funding amounts pertaining to both programs.

Section D: Implementation and Monitoring

What are the Reading and Math Academies, and how do they relate to HB 2 requirements for EPPs?

- The Reading Academies and Mathematics Achievement Academies are state-developed professional learning programs designed to ensure educators are equipped with evidence-based instructional practices aligned to Texas standards. These academies focus on foundational literacy and math instruction, particularly for early grades (K–3), and are part of the state’s broader strategy to improve student outcomes in reading and math. Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) will be statutorily required to deliver these academies directly to teacher candidates as a core requirement of the PREP Preservice Programs. More information will be made available shortly regarding EPP training and certification to implement the training content. Training is anticipated to begin during early fall 2026.

What is the cost of the Mentor Training for Host Teachers in Residency?

- Texas Mentorship Training is not required for PREP Preservice Residency host teachers in School Year 2026-27. However, TEA highly encourages host teachers to attend the Mentoring Educator pathway of the TMT in School Year 2026-27. If the school system would like to send their host teachers to TMT and is partnering with an ESC Texas Mentorship Training Provider, the cost of training would be \$500 per participant. Please note that if the school system wishes to partner with a non-ESC Approved Provider, TMT cost will vary. To learn more about TMT costs, please reach out to your TMT Provider at <https://tmt.tea.texas.gov/contacts>

Will cooperating teachers be required to complete the Mentorship Training or will EPPs still be able to develop that own trainings in accordance with TAC 228?

- For school systems participating in the PREP Preservice Residency Program in School Year 2026-27, the Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) Mentoring Educator training pathway is optional but strongly encouraged for host teachers.

Can a school system (open charter) place a resident teacher with a host teacher who is not certified?

- Residents must be placed with a qualified host teacher which does require certification as described in §228.95(a) <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sbec-rules-tac/sbec-tac-currently-in-effect/ch228f.pdf>

Where can a school system find a list of SBEC approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route providers?

- All EPPs who are SBEC- approved to offer the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route are found here: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/teacher-residencies-in-texas>

Who is responsible for implementing state-developed content?

- Under HB 2, EPPs must integrate state-developed content into coursework.

Will LEAs be able to apply for allotment with all EPP partnerships? (More than one EPP)

- Only EPPs who have been SBEC approved to offer the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route resulting in the enhanced standard certificate may partner with school systems for the PREP Residency Allotment. School systems may have more than one SBEC approved partner.

What types of state-developed content are required under HB 2 for PREP Allotment Programs? (updated 11/10/25)

- Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) participating in the PREP Allotment Program will be required to be trained and certified to deliver a suite of state-developed preparation content by the 2027–28 school year. For the 2027-2028 school year, the statutorily required Reading and Math Achievement Academies will be prioritized. This content is currently in development and is designed to ensure that EPPs prepare teacher candidates to deliver instruction aligned with Texas educator standards. The agency will provide further communication to Educator Preparation Programs regarding the training content.

Is it required for Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) to use Bluebonnet Learning HQIM in the preparation content being developed by the state? (updated 11/10/25)

- Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) participating in the PREP Preservice Programs under HB 2 will be required to prepare teacher candidates using state-developed training content, including the statutorily required Reading Academies and Math Academies. More information will be coming shortly regarding the specific training content that will be available in 2027-2028, as well as related training and approval processes for participating EPPs. As an additional note, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) are already statutorily required to prepare teacher candidates to effectively use Texas Open Education Resources (OER) in subjects where these materials are available. Bluebonnet Learning is the state's OER product. This requirement is specified in TAC Chapter 228.

Section E: Support and Resources

There are no additional resources available at this time.

Section F: Contact Information

Who should I contact for questions?

- For questions about the PREP Preservice Residency Program, please email teateacherresidency@tea.texas.gov.