

**Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Winter 2022-2023**

RFA# 701-23-108

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## General Questions

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### General Question A-1

If we received TCLAS awards, can we apply for LASO grants?

#### Answer

Receipt of TCLAS awards may or may not impact eligibility for individual LASO grants. Each grant has its own eligibility requirements. More information is available in the LASO Winter 22-23 Grant One Pager document. Full details about each grant will be available in the Program Guidelines, which will be published on November 7th when the grant application opens.

#### General Question A-2

Can a district apply for both Strong Foundations Planning and Implementation at the same time?

#### Answer

Districts can apply for both Strong Foundations LASO grants if they are pursuing those supports in different subject areas. For example, an LEA may have been focusing on building out a math framework this fall and would be interested in applying for implementation supports for our K-5 OER math product through Strong Foundations Implementation. That LEA may also be interested in starting to build their literacy framework through Strong Foundations Planning in LASO. This is okay to do!

#### General Question A-3

Is it possible to be granted for one part of LASO but not another?

#### Answer

LASO has eight different grant initiatives, with each initiative having their own eligibility and criteria. It is possible for districts to receive funding for several initiatives.

### Section B: Application-Related Questions

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#### General Question B-1

Can grant application documents be made available prior to the opening of the Application Window? This would allow more time to better understand the requirements for each grant opportunity and develop an appropriate strategy for responding to ensure good fit.

#### Answer

Initial information about LASO grant opportunities is being provided through the General Webinar (recording and slides now posted on the LASO website) and in the LASO Winter 22-23 Grant One Pager posted on the LASO website.

Detailed Program Guidelines will be posted when the application opens on November 7th. LEAs will have an additional opportunity to learn more about individual grants in the program-specific webinars taking place between November 14-18 (register under Key Dates on the LASO Website).

LEAs will have 45 days to complete the grant application (an increase from the 32-day application window for TCLAS).

### General Question B-2

Are all the grants open with the one application, or do they each have their own application?

#### Answer

There is one application that covers all LASO grants.

### General Question B-3

Can a district receive more than one grant opportunity under LASO?

#### Answer

Yes, a district may apply for, and receive, multiple grants under LASO.

### General Question B-4

Will all superintendents receive a link to the LASO grant? Can they share that link to the grant manager or others as needed? Lastly, does the Qualtrics application allow you to save and return to the document or does it need to be completed all at one time?

#### Answer

Yes, the link shared with Superintendents can be shared with others to complete different parts of the application. You will be able to save and return to the application document. A Superintendent signature will be required for submission.

### General Question B-5

We have a brand new superintendent. How can I check to make sure you have the correct superintendent on file?

#### Answer

Please e-mail [LASO@tea.texas.gov](mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov) so that we can double check we have the correct information.

### Section C: Program-Related Questions

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#### General Question C-2

Our campus currently has a designated ECHS. If we apply for the PTECH grant portion, would we have to phase out our existing ECHS for the P-TECH or could we have both designations on the same campus?

#### Answer

No, your campus would not have to phase out their ECHS. A campus (identified by a CDCN) can maintain 2 CCRS Model designations simultaneously, one for ECHS and one for P-TECH. Students can only participate in one model, either ECHS or P-TECH.

#### General Question C-3

If we received a 2022-23 SAF implementation grant for one campus, can we apply for the LASO: SAF for a different campus that qualifies based on 21-22 ratings?

#### Answer

An LEA may apply on behalf of another campus that meets the eligibility requirements.

#### General Question C-4

The SAF grant also is available for districts wishing to create new campuses, correct? Are there Title 1 related requirements for new campuses?

#### Answer

Yes - all SAF grants are Title I, Part A funded. Applicants selecting "Create a New School" must include the new campus in its Title I ESSA plan in time for SY2023-2024.

#### General Question C-5

Are School Action Fund Grants for planning or implementation?

#### Answer

Most SAF grants will be for planning; a select number of implementation grants will be available for ACE and Rural Collaboratives.

#### General Question C-6

What is the biggest difference between Strong Foundations Implementation and Strong Foundations Planning Supports as far as the intent?

#### Answer

Strong Foundations Implementation is supporting LEAs in implementing Amplify Elementary Literacy Program or Eureka Math TEKS Edition through 3 different implementation models. Strong Foundations Planning is supporting LEAs in creating an instructional framework in math and/or literacy and will provide optional adoption supports if an LEA is looking to make a materials swap as a result of developing a new instructional framework (Strong Foundations Planning is the same as to the Strong Foundations Framework Development Grant currently running, but we are incorporating some continuous improvements into it that we've heard from the field). Strong Foundations Planning is not tied to any specific materials use, but the outcomes we want LEAs to work towards during Strong Foundations Planning is either selecting HQIM to use the following

year (can be our TEA OER materials or other HQIM) or building stronger systems and structures to implement HQIM they may already have.

### General Question C-7

Do LEAs have to be currently in the process of implementing Amplify and Eureka for the Strong Foundations Implementation grant, or can they be considering implementing for next school year?

**Answer** (Updated October 24, 2022)

LEAs that were previously in CRIMSI are eligible to receive support in the same product – however, they will get awarded the 1B option if capacity runs out of slots in 1A or 1C.

LEAs who have previously participated in CRIMSI for K-5 RLA and are applying to expand the pilot to new teachers will be awarded the CRIMSI Local Implementation Training of Trainers option for K-5 RLA if the capacity for the other options has been met.

LEAs who have previously participated in CRIMSI for K-5 RLA or K-5 Math and are applying to expand the pilot to new teachers will be awarded the CRIMSI Local Implementation Training of Trainers option for K-5 Math if the capacity for the other options has been met.

### General Question C-9

Is Strong Foundations Planning only for LEAs that currently are not using any HQIM materials?

**Answer**

No, these can be districts that are not using HQIM or districts that have already adopted HQIM but need additional support with stakeholder engagement and aligning their systems and structures to support implementing with fidelity. There will be an optional path for districts not using HQIM to receive adoption supports towards the end of the grant, but districts already using HQIM or not looking to adopt will not be required to participate in that set of supports in Strong Foundations Planning.

### General Question C-10

Will there be a new SAVL (State-Approved Vendor List) for technical assistance providers?

**Answer**

Yes. The SAVL (State-Approved Vendor List) will be posted on November 7th when the application opens.

### General Question C-11

How do you become an approved vendor with TEA?

**Answer**

Each grant program has its own evaluation criteria and process to certify vendors. Information is posted publicly, and outreach is conducted so that potential vendors can take part in the application process. For more information, please contact the program-specific point of contact listed in the LASO General Webinar slide deck.

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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### General Question D-1

Can indirect costs be charged to the grants?

#### Answer

Each grant has different guidelines pertaining to indirect costs. This information will be available in the Program Guidelines in the Application Funding section under “Indirect Costs”.

## Section E: Funding Questions

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### General Question E-1

Strong Foundations Implementation is In-Kind Supports. What about Strong Foundations Planning?

#### Answer

Strong Foundations Planning will be direct funds to LEAs to partner with an approved technical assistance provider.

### General Question E-2

What is the funding source for LASO grants?

#### Answer (Updated November 18, 2022)

Each initiative is funded from an individual source of funds:

- Strong Foundations Implementation Supports is funded from General Revenue.
- Strong Foundations Planning is funded from General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX, Section 18.15 (TCLAS), 87th Texas Legislature.
- ECHS is funded from General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 49, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, (TEC) §29.908(b) and (TAC) §102.1091.
- PTECH is funded from General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 66, 86th Texas Legislature, and Texas Education Code (TEC), §§29.551-29.556 and §29.908.
- School Action Fund Grant is funded from Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by ESSA, Title I, Part A, Section 1003.
- Tech Lending Grant funded from General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 8, 86th Texas Legislature; Texas Education Code (TEC) §32.301.
- Blended Learning Grant funded from General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 76, 87th Texas Legislature and General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 41, 85th Texas Legislature.
- ADSY is funded from an outside provider.

### General Question E-3

Is there a district match requirement for any LASO grants?

#### Answer

ECHS requires a 20% cost share/match. PTECH requires a 20% cost share/match. Other initiatives do not require a cost share/match.

### General Question E-4

Which LASO grants have In-Kind Supports and which are Direct Grant Funds?

#### Answer

The Strong Foundations Implementation Supports as well as the ADSY Planning and Execution – Summer Grants include In-Kind Supports. All other grants will award Direct Grant Funds.

## Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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### General Question F-1

Are you going to seek reviewers, or will TEA staff complete the application reviews?

#### Answer

TEA staff will be reviewing applications for eligibility requirements and scoring according to the criteria for each grant.

## Strong Foundations Implementations

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### SFI Question A-1

If a campus has already started using the HQIM this school year, can they still be eligible for this grant?

#### Answer

Yes. However, individual teachers currently participating in TCLAS Decision 2A supports would not be eligible to also receive supports via LASO as TCLAS Decision 2A provides supports for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

#### SFI Question A-2

If a district is already implementing HQIM materials through TCLAS Decision 2 in K-5 math and literacy, would they be eligible for the implementation grant?

#### Answer

Yes. However, individual teachers currently participating in TCLAS Decision 2A supports would not be eligible to also receive supports via LASO as TCLAS Decision 2A provides supports for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. If an LEA's TCLAS support was for a subset of schools and the LEA would like to apply to expand to additional schools, teachers in those additional schools would be eligible for supports.

#### SFI Question A-3

Can an LEA apply for both the Planning and Implementation grants? If so, how will that LEA be prioritized? Would they be prioritized the same as a LEA that is in cohort 1 or 2 currently?

#### Answer

Yes, a LEA can apply to both grants (e.g., LEA in planning for Math but implementation for RLA). The decisions will be scored independently.

#### SFI Question A-4

Can LEA's apply for 1A, 1 B, and 1C? Could we be awarded all 3 if we apply for all 3?

### Answer

LEAs can apply to all 3, but would not be awarded all 3. LEAs can be awarded both 1A (CRIMSI) and 1B (CRIMSI Local Implementation) - for example, if a LEA is currently implementing RLA via CRIMSI with a subset of schools and wants to expand to other schools, and also want to start implementing Math, the LEA could be awarded 1B (CRIMSI Local Implementation) for RLA and 1A (CRIMSI) for Math. LEAs will not be awarded both 1A/1B and 1C.

### SFI Question A-5

If an LEA is already enrolled in the Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP) through TCLAS and the Strong Math Foundation Grant, are they eligible to apply?

### Answer

Yes, LEAs enrolled in RSSP are eligible to apply.

### SFI Question A-6 **NEW**

Are LEA's eligible to apply if they are not currently using CRIMSI? Can we apply for one of the CRIMSI options (to receive print materials) as part of this grant if we have not participated in CRIMSI before?

### Answer

Yes, LEAs can apply to the Strong Foundations Implementation Grant if they have not previously participated in CRIMSI. However, LEAs with prior participation and good standing in the Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP), the Strong Foundations Literacy/Math Framework Grant, and/or the COVID Recovery Instructional Materials Support Initiative (CRIMSI) will be prioritized first for grant funds.

## Section B: Application-Related Questions

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### SFI Question B-1

I have been trying to fill out the online application but have run into difficulty with it accepting my fields in part 3A. Qualtrics is not allowing me to move to the next screen. Is there some technical help that I can contact to assist me?

### Answer

Please email [LASO@tea.texas.gov](mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov) and we can support with technical difficulties associated with the application.

### SFI Question B-2

If a school district chooses "Dual Language" on their print order, will they receive a set of both English and Spanish print materials?

### Answer

Columns "Teacher Editions (Both Eng. & Spanish)" and "Student Editions (Both Eng. & Spanish)" will include print materials in *both* English and Spanish. Therefore, regardless of bilingual implementation model, if a teacher or student requires materials in *both* languages, they should be accounted for in those two columns. Only one manipulative kit per teacher should be requested as they are the same, regardless of implementation model.



### Section C: Program-Related Questions

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#### SFI Question C-1

How does this connect with the HQIM Innovator Grant? We have been asked to do this grant as a district.

#### Answer

This is a separate grant from the HQIM Innovator Grant

#### SFI Question C-2

If teachers attended all HQIM training hours during the 22-23 school year, will they have to repeat the training with LASO?

#### Answer

Teachers currently participating in TCLAS Decision 2A supports would not be eligible to also receive supports via LASO as TCLAS Decision 2A provides supports for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

#### SFI Question C-3

Is there an authentic, not translated, SLAR component as well?

#### Answer

In Amplify Texas Lectoescritura en Español, the Skills component in Spanish was built authentically in Spanish. The Knowledge component in Spanish has a mix of authentic texts and trans-adaptations.

#### SFI Question C-4

Is the Strong Foundation a district-wide initiative or is the focus K-5 Math or ELA?

#### Answer

Strong Foundations Implementation is specifically for LEAs implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition). LEAs can choose to implement district-wide or with a subset of schools.

#### SFI Question C-5

Which curriculum materials qualify as “High Quality Instruction Materials (HQIM)?

#### Answer

Strong Foundations Implementation is specifically for LEAs implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition).

#### SFI Question C-6

Does this have to be year 1 implementation, or can it be year 2?

#### Answer

LEAs can be in Year 1 or Year 2+ of implementation; however, teachers currently participating in TCLAS Decision 2A supports would not be eligible to also receive supports via LASO as TCLAS Decision 2A provides supports for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years.

### SFI Question C-7

Would a district have to commit to all grades' implementation at the beginning? Or could they do a roll out of a few grades in SY24, and then others in SY25?

#### Answer

LEAs do not have to commit to all grades in Year 1 - it can be a subset of grades.

### SFI Question C-8

How many hours of training will be required? Will the training be asynchronous or live & virtual?

#### Answer

Approximately 18-24 seat hours of training are required for each teacher, coach, and administrator. Training format differs by option.

- Option 1A and 1B includes asynchronous modules, blended sessions (i.e., live virtual sessions with asynchronous pre- or post-work), and live virtual communities of practice
- Option 1C includes asynchronous modules and live virtual and/or in-person sessions and job-embedded supports

To learn more about the training included in each option, review the option-specific webinars.

### SFI Question C-9

If a district chooses the ESC Implementation Supports option, will they receive print materials?

#### Answer

Print materials are not included in Option 1C: ESC Strong Foundations Implementation Supports.

### SFI Question C-10

For the 1B and 1C options, will LEA's need to purchase print materials or can LEA's choose to print in-house?

#### Answer

For options 1B and 1C, obtaining access to print materials will be a local decision.

### SFI Question C-11

If an LEA has already received print materials through TCLAS, how should they handle the print orders for LASO?

#### Answer

If an LEA does not need print materials, they should put "0" in the application section on print materials.

### SFI Question C-12

If we selected BookNook and Zearn through TCLAS decision 2, can we apply for the Amplify materials?

#### Answer

Yes. Those with BookNook and Zearn through TCLAS decision 2 can apply for Amplify materials.

### SFI Question C-13

Will support continue after the year 23-24 ends for the following year 24-25. Or is the LEA will be responsible to purchase the materials and resources for Eureka Math.

### Answer

For the purposes of this grant, In-kind print materials support will only be available for the 2023-24 school year. Any printed materials, consumable products, replacement materials or digital subscriptions for subsequent school years will be the responsibility of the LEA to purchase.

### SFI Question C-14

Where can I find a list of TEA-approved vendors?

### Answer

The state approved vendor list can be found on the LASO website- <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/laso-state-approved-vendors-list.pdf>. However, all Strong Foundations Implementation Supports are in-kind (versus providing direct grant funds for LEAs to contract with a state approved vendor).

### SFI Question C-15

If an LEA is currently creating Strong Foundations framework, would a planning or implementation be more appropriate?

### Answer

Strong Foundations Planning is the same as the Strong Foundations Framework Development Grant that is currently running, but with continuous improvements based on feedback from the field. Strong Foundations Implementation is for LEAs implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition).

### SFI Question C-16

Is an LEA still eligible for implementation support if they have not done any formal framework process?

### Answer

Yes. An LEA is still eligible for implementation support if they have not done any formal framework process

### Question C-17

To clarify: Strong Foundations Implementation is limited to the products TEA endorses, correct?

### Answer

Strong Foundations Implementation is specifically for LEAs implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition).

### Question C-18

Are LEA's able to preview material before applying for the grant?

### Answer

Access to TEA Available Materials can be requested using the link below.  
<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/tea-available-materials>

### Question C-19 **NEW**

How does our Region receive compensation for the services through the life of the grant since the Grant is “in-kind”? (Services such as training, job-embedded professional development, etc.)

#### Answer

Education Service Center Staff funded by the THL Dedicated Staff Grant will provide Strong Foundations Implementation Supports to LEAs awarded option 1C.

### Question C-20 **NEW**

Can a LEA receive Strong Foundations Implementation grant supports if using a product other than the approved core products?

#### Answer

LEAs must be implementing an approved core product in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program/Amplify Texas Lectoescritura en Español) or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition) to be eligible for Strong Foundations Implementation.

### Question C-21 **NEW**

Are the print materials required, or can everything be accessed digitally?

#### Answer

Digital materials are available via a static PDF; they are not available through a LCMS or learning content management system. Great Minds offers a LCMS, though that would not be paid for through the LASO Strong Foundations Implementation Grant. Therefore, if an LEA chose to implement digitally, they would need to explore those options with Great Minds, as well as confirm their available technology aligns with the capacity required to do so

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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### Question D-1

Can SFI be used to assist in the fidelity of implementation for instructional products other than Eureka or Amplify?

#### Answer

The only approved products for this grant are Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program (English and Spanish) and Eureka Math TEKS Edition

## Section E: Funding Questions

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### SFI Question E-1

What are “In-Kind” supports?

#### Answer

In-kind supports mean LEAs won't receive direct grant funds - instead, TEA will provide all supports directly.

### SFI Question E-2

Can we use Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment funds to purchase printed materials if they are not granted as in-kind support?

#### Answer

Yes, LEAs can utilize their Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment through a disbursement request for materials ordered directly from the vendor. However, local procurement policies will still apply. For more information on how to utilize Allotment funds, please visit <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/state-adopted-instructional-materials/instructional-materials-and-technology-allotment>

### SFI Question E-3

If an LEA chooses 1C, does TEA or the LEA pay the ESC for implementation support.

#### Answer

TEA will fund the implementation support.

### SFI Question E-3

Will the support provided directly by the ESCs occur via MOUs?

#### Answer

The ESC support is provided through a grant TEA has with ESCs. LEAs will not need to sign an MOU.

## Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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### SFI Question F-1 **NEW**

What happens if we are not approved for our preferred option? Can we decline the grant?

#### Answer

LEA's may choose to decline the grant during the negotiation phase. Their award will be given to the next available LEA.

## Strong Foundations Planning

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### SFP Question A-1

Are Charter Schools in an 1882 partnership with ISD's eligible for this grant?

#### Answer

Charter schools in an 1882 partnership will need to apply through their host district.

#### SFP Question A-2

Do LEAs have to apply for the Planning Grant if wanted to apply for the Implementation Grant?

#### Answer

The Planning Grant is not a prerequisite for applying to the Implementation Grant.

### SFP Question A-3

If an LEA is currently a grantee of the 22-25 Strong Foundations Literacy Planning, are they eligible to apply for this (LASO) funding opportunity for Planning on the additional content area (Math)?

#### Answer

Yes, if the LEA is applying for a new content area they are eligible applicants.

### SFP Question A-4

Can districts apply for both the Strong Foundations Planning and Implementation even if they are currently implementing TCLAS Decision 2?

#### Answer

Districts currently implementing TCLAS Decision 2 are eligible to apply for the Strong Foundations Planning Grant or the Strong Foundations Implementation Grant if it is for subject areas they have not previously received support in. For example, if an LEA has received implementation support for Eureka Math TEKS Edition at the K-5 level, they are not eligible to re-apply for implementation support; however, they would be eligible for applying for implementation support for Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program.

### SFP Question A-5

At one point, it was announced that there would be a winter enrollment for the Strong Foundations grant. Is that still going to happen, or is this Strong Foundation grant replacing the previously mentioned Strong Foundation grant that was scheduled to release this winter?

#### Answer

The Strong Foundations Planning Grant is replacing the winter enrollment opportunity previously mentioned.

## Section B: Application-Related Questions

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### SFP Question B-1

Can an LEA apply for both Math & Literacy Planning? Can an LEA be awarded for both Math & Literacy Planning?

#### Answer

Yes, LEAs will have the opportunity to apply for both math and literacy if the LEA wishes to pursue planning in both subject areas and the LEA has not participated in the Strong Foundations Framework Grant. If applying for both, LEAs will be prompted to select which subject area they would like to prioritize if they could only be awarded one. Please note that each subject area has funding limitations and LEAs may only be awarded one subject area if applying for both.

## Section C: Program-Related Questions

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### SFP Question C-1

If an LEA wants to develop both Literacy AND Math frameworks, would they be able to start with one Strong Foundations planning grant and apply for an additional planning grant in the future? Is an LEA eligible to apply for, and be awarded for, both math and literacy?

### Answer

Districts may choose to apply for a Strong Foundations Planning Grant in one content area and if future grant opportunities are available, they may apply to work on an additional content area at that time. LEAs may apply for math and literacy but may only be awarded one content area.

### SFP Question C-2

What does the timeline look like for districts who receive Math and Literacy? Is there a calculator for funds like the Framework Grant?

### Answer

LEAs who are awarded Strong Foundations Planning should plan to kick off grant activities around April 2023 and complete much of the planning work around Winter 2023. Grantees will work with their approved providers to finalize their unique district timeline, however, the Agency will provide milestones to pace LEAs through key steps in the grant.

There is not a grant calculator currently available.

### SFP Question C-3

Is there a list of TEA-approved providers?

### Answer

The Strong Foundations Planning Approved Providers list can be accessed here:  
[PowerPoint Template \(texas.gov\)](#)

### SFP Question C-4

Can LEA's include multiple contracted service providers, or must they stick to a single provider?

### Answer

LEAs will contract with a single provider for the Strong Foundations Planning Grant.

### SFP Question C-5

How does this grant relate to the Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP)?

### Answer

RSSP provides LEAs with district-level strategic planning and implementation supports for COVID-Recovery and Learning Acceleration. Strong Foundations Planning supports the development of a content specific instructional vision and framework which should help inform and shape an LEA's strategic plan priorities for instruction. The targeted support needed to develop this comprehensive instructional framework is not provided in RSSP supports, but the work between the programs can be aligned so that there is coherence in supports being received.

### SFP Question C-6

Our district applied for a mentor grant in the past. We worked with NIET on the grant. Since we did not get the grant, we did not pay them anything for their help. Someone at our district asked me if this grant will be the same. (Sorry if you do not know the answer to this!)

### Answer

LEAs will be awarded grant funds prior to selecting their approved provider.

### SFP Question C-7

Can this grant be used to add Science and/or Social Studies supports?

### Answer

The Strong Foundations Planning Grant is specifically focused on math and literacy. Science and social studies supports are not available through this grant.

### SFP Question C-8

What is the time commitment for Professional Development?

### Answer

We anticipate between 6-12 hours of professional development in addition to the monthly Community of Practice Meetings.

### SFP Question C-9

Will TEA pair LEA's with a Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) like in RSSP?

### Answer

TEA will not be pairing LEAs with providers for this grant program. LEAs will be responsible for selecting and contracting with their select provider from TEA's Approved Provider list. There are several RSSP providers on the approved list.

### SFP Question C-10

Where can I find a list of TEA-approved vendors for technical assistance?

### Answer

The state approved vendor list can be found on the LASO website-  
<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/laso-state-approved-vendors-list.pdf>

### SFP Question C-11 **NEW**

Is there a reason the current LASO is only supporting Eureka and not Carnegie?

### Answer

The Strong Foundations Grant Program (Texas Education Code Sec.29.0881) is established through House Bill 4545, 87th Regular Session, 2021, and will offer K-5 Math and Literacy comprehensive Tier 1 instructional supports. The approved core product for K-5 Math for LASO is Eureka Math TEKS Edition.

### SFP Question C-12 **NEW**

If we are not piloting Amplify or Eureka, does this mean we are we not eligible for Strong Foundations Planning Support?

### Answer

The Strong Foundations Planning Grant is not tied to any instructional materials.



### SFP Question C-13 **NEW**

Can the strong foundation planning supports or strong foundations implementation supports be used for the planning, implementation, or purchasing of secondary (intermediate) curriculums?

#### Answer

The Strong Foundations is specifically for K-5 RLA and K-5 Math

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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### SFP Question D-1

Can a district use funds to receive HQIM implementation support from an ESC or vendor beyond the 2023-24 school year?

#### Answer

A district may use funds for a small-scale pilot as part of the grant cycle.

### SFP Question D-2

Can an LEA use this grant to focus on grades 6-12?

#### Answer

Legislation supporting & funding Strong Foundations is focused on K-5 instruction, and would thus be a required component of this grant.

### SFP Question D-3

Will Strong Foundations Planning assist with HQIM purchase for the 23-24 school year?

#### Answer

The Strong Foundations Planning Grant does not support the purchase of instructional materials.

### SFP Question D-4

Will Strong Foundations Planning assist with Amplify 6th-8th or its only K-5?

#### Answer

The Strong Foundations Planning Grant is not tied to any instructional materials.

## Section E: Funding Questions

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### SFP Question E-1

How will ESCs be funded for supporting LEAs for the Implementation grant? LEAs are awarded in-kind so funding/paying ESCs for services is unclear.

#### Answer

ESC support for the Strong Foundations Implementation Grant will be in-kind, meaning LEAs will not have to pay for those supports. TEA is in agreement through a grant with ESC's to directly fund full time employees, meaning districts will not be paying to ESC's.

### Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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#### SFP Question F-1

If a district partnered with an ESC as part of TCLAS 2A or 2B, would they be prioritized for the Strong Foundations Grant?

#### Answer

Yes, LEAs who are currently participating in Resilient Schools Support Programs (RSSP), Texas Covid Learning Acceleration Supports (TCLAS), Covid Recovery Instructional Materials Support Initiative (CRIMSI), and Strong Foundations Math and Literacy Framework Development Grant will receive prioritization.

## Early College High School

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### ECHS Question A-1

We are currently a PK-8th grade district. We want to start an Early College HS for our students. Do we qualify for this grant?

#### Answer

As part of the grant eligibility, an LEA will need to serve grades 9-12. If the LEA is intending to serve a high school population, including a 9th grade population, in 2024-2025, they would be eligible for the grant.

#### ECHS Question A-2

Do you need to have an IHE partner when you submit the application?

#### Answer

Yes, a partnership with an IHE is required when you submit the application.

#### ECHS Question A-3

We are only an ECHS district. We have been approved to replicate this model by the TEA division. According to the list we will not qualify because we received a 2021-22 grant. Are there any exceptions?

Our ECHS district has been approved to replicate this model by the TEA division and received a 21-22 grant. Are we eligible?

#### Answer

Grant eligibility is determined at the campus-level, not the district level. As per grant eligibility, if a campus was a recipient of the 2021–2023 ECHS Planning and Implementation Grant or the 2022 – 2024 ECHS Planning Grant, that campus would not be eligible to apply for this grant. If a different campus in the district was not a recipient of the 2021–2023 ECHS Planning and Implementation Grant or the 2022 – 2024 ECHS Planning Grant, that campus would be eligible to apply for this grant.

### ECHS Question A-4

is a school that already has an ECHS designation for a small program within the school (but has not had a grant) eligible to use one of these grants to expand ECHS to the entire campus?

#### Answer

The ECHS LASO grant will begin serving students in Grade 9 or students in Grades 9 and 10 in the first year of implementation (2024-2025). Existing ECHS programs adding a new pathway or expanding an existing ECHS are not eligible for the grant.

### ECHS Question A-5

As a four-year IHE that cannot award associate degrees, we are planning to submit an application providing 60-hours college credit, to include the Texas Core Curriculum. We also may offer certifications in the CTE program in addition to those already available, but that is yet to be discussed in our application planning. Question 6 asks that the applicant “Name the Industry-Based Certification, Certificate or Associate Degree that the ECHS intends to offer.” How would you suggest we respond to that question if our primary intent is the 60 hours of college credit?

#### Answer

An appropriate input would be defining your program’s 60 hours of college credit, including Texas core curriculum

## Section B: Application-Related Questions

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### ECHS Question B-1

Can ECHS campuses partner with more than one IHE?

#### Answer

Yes, an ECHS campus can partner with more than one Institution of Higher Education (IHE) if the IHE(s) are nationally or regionally accredited

## Section C: Program-Related Questions

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### ECHS Question C-1

What would be the first year of accountability for a PTECH/ECHS under the CCRSM blueprint?

#### Answer

ECHS/P-TECH campuses are required to meet the CCRSM Outcomes-Based Measures (OBMs) after 5 years of implementation. ECHS/P-TECH campuses will begin implementing in 24-25 under LASO.

### ECHS Question C-2

Can an ECHS lead to a credential like Level 1 or Level 2 like a PTECH? Is one supposed to be more academic versus workforce?

### Answer

The ECHS campus must provide a course of study that enables participation for students in grades 9-12 to earn a high school diploma, earn an associate degree or up to 60 college credit hours. ECHS campuses can also offer Level 1 or Level 2 certificates, if appropriate.

### ECHS Question C-3

What are the differences between ECHS and P-TECH?

### Answer

In ECHS, students earn a high school diploma in addition to up to 60 college credit hours or an associate degree. ECHS programs require an MOU with an IHE. In P-TECH, students earn a high school diploma in addition to industry-based certifications, Level 1 or 2 certificates, and/or an associate degree while engaging in work-based learning at every grade level. P-TECH programs should be mapped to a CTE program of study. Some ECHS programs offer Level 1 or Level 2 certificates if it is appropriate to their course of study. Additionally, ECHS programs must have a partnership with an IHE, while P-TECH programs must have a partnership with an IHE and a business/industry.

### ECHS Question C-4

Can a student participate in ECHS if they fail the TSI?

### Answer

As per the ECHS Blueprint, the ECHS "shall identify, recruit, and enroll the subpopulations of at-risk students (as defined by Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.081 and PEIMS), including, but not limited to, students who have not passed two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum during a semester in the preceding or current school year, students who are of limited English proficiency, or students who have failed a state administered assessment. Enrollment decisions shall not be based on state assessment scores, discipline history, teacher recommendations, parent or student essays, minimum grade point average (GPA), or other criteria that create barriers for student enrollment."

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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### ECHS Question D-1

Who are the approved technical assistance providers? Will they be TEA staff, ESC's, or other vendors?

### Answer

The state approved vendor list that identifies vendors for each LASO initiative, including ECHS, is found here: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/laso-state-approved-vendors-list.pdf>

## Section E: Funding Questions

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### ECHS Question E-1

Is the \$100,000 maximum award per district, or per campus?

### Answer

The grant award maximum is \$100,000 per campus, not per district. Districts may apply for multiple campuses.

### ECHS Question E-2

Are grant funds eligible for multiple years? If so, how many?

#### Answer

The lifetime of the LASO ECHS grant is through the 2024-2025 school year.

## Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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Questions pertaining to this aspect of the grant have not been received.

## Pathways to Technology Early College High School

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### P-TECH Question A-1

If a campus would like to change its P-TECH program or add a new pathway, is this considered a new program based on grant criteria?

#### Answer

As per grant eligibility, The P-TECH LASO grant will begin serving students in Grade 9 or students in Grades 9 and 10 in the first year of implementation (2024-2025). Existing P-TECH programs adding a new pathway are not eligible for the grant.

#### P-TECH Question A-2

If a campus began the process for P-TECH designation but never completed it, is this considered a new program? Is the campus eligible to apply based on grant criteria?

#### Answer

LEAs that:

- Serve students in Grades 9–12; or
- Will begin serving students in Grade 9 or students in Grades 9 and 10 in the first year of implementation (2024-2025) and will progressively scale up by adding at least one grade level per year after the first year of implementation
- Are recipients of one of the following are **not eligible** for the grant:
  - 2018–2019 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant
  - 2019-2020 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant,
  - 2018–2020 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant
  - 2019-2021 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant
  - 2020-2022 P-TECH and ICIA Planning and Implementation Grant
  - 2021 – 2023 P-TECH Planning and Implementation grant
  - 2021-2023 CCRSM P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant
  - TCLAS Decision 9a P-TECH Planning and Implementation
  - TCLAS Decision 9b P-TECH Success
  - 2020-2022 P-TECH Success Grant

### P-TECH Question A-3

A campus has been operating as a school-within-a-school ECHS and is interested in shifting to a school-within-a-school P-TECH program. Will they be eligible for this P-TECH grant opportunity?

#### Answer

If that ECHS has not received a P-TECH planning or success grant in the past, they would be eligible to apply.

### P-TECH Question A-4

What type of organization qualifies as a business/industry partner? E.g. EDC, Chamber, workforce training intermediary?

#### Answer

There are no formal criteria for a business/industry partner. However, business/industry partners must be able to offer work-based learning opportunities at each grade level. They must also give to a student who receives work-based training or education from the partner under the P-TECH program priority in interviewing for any jobs for which the student is qualified that are available on the student's completion of the program.

### P-TECH Question A-5

Is a community college a required IHE? i.e. - a 4-year institution cannot be the only IHE?

#### Answer

P-TECH programs can partner with community colleges. P-TECH programs can partner with any regionally or nationally accredited 2-year or 4-year institutions.

### P-TECH Question A-6

If an LEA is already implementing P-TECH through TCLAS, do we still need to use the 23-24 school year to plan? can LEA's use funding earlier if planning has already been completed?

#### Answer

The TCLAS Grant and the LASO grant are two different grant initiatives, each with their own eligibility criteria. As per grant eligibility, recipients of the TCLAS 1.0 Decision 9a P-TECH Planning and Implementation or 9b P-TECH Success or the 2020-2022 P-TECH Success Grant are not eligible for this grant.

### P-TECH Question A-7

If a campus received a P-TECH grant prior to 2018 (i.e., in 2016), are they eligible for this P-TECH grant? Including if they have an existing P-TECH program but want to build out an additional P-TECH program focused on a new content area?

#### Answer

As per grant eligibility, The P-TECH LASO grant will begin serving students in Grade 9 or students in Grades 9 and 10 in the first year of implementation (2024-2025). Existing P-TECH programs adding a new pathway are not eligible for the grant. If the campus received any of the following grants, they would not be eligible for LASO funding:

- 2018–2019 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant
- 2019-2020 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant, 2018–2020 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant
- 2019-2021 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant

- 2020-2022 P-TECH and ICIA Planning and Implementation Grant
- 2021 – 2023 P-TECH Planning and Implementation grant
- 2021-2023 CCRSM P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant
- TCLAS Decision 9a P-TECH Planning and Implementation
- TCLAS Decision 9b P-TECH Success 2020-2022 P-TECH Success Grant

### P-TECH Question A-8

Is a school required to have a certain percentage of students that are economically disadvantaged to qualify?

#### Answer

The grant does not require campuses to report a certain percentage of students that are economically disadvantaged in the grant application. However, as outlined in the grant description, the intent of the ECHS program is to offer opportunities for campuses to provide targeted supports for historically underserved students. Additionally, as outlined in Key Program Commitments to Consider, as part of the grant “LEAs will engage in 29 months of ECHS model planning and implementation design elements and requirements aligned to the 2020-21 ECHS Blueprint” The ECHS Blueprint does have target outcomes related to access and the number of students from the target population that the program will serve.

### P-TECH Question A-9

If a campus received a P-TECH grant prior to 2018, are they eligible for LASO?

#### Answer

As stated on the grant guidelines, the following grants are the only grants that determine LASO eligibility:

- 2018–2019 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant
- 2019-2020 P-TECH and ICIA Planning Grant, 2018–2020 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant
- 2019-2021 P-TECH and ICIA Success Grant
- 2020-2022 P-TECH and ICIA Planning and Implementation Grant
- 2021 – 2023 P-TECH Planning and Implementation grant
- 2021-2023 CCRSM P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant
- TCLAS Decision 9a P-TECH Planning and Implementation
- TCLAS Decision 9b P-TECH Success 2020-2022 P-TECH Success Grant

## Section B: Application-Related Questions

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### P-TECH Question B-1

Can the Assurance Documents count as Letters of Support?

#### Answer

Letters of Support that are not the Assurance Documents from the non-funded P-TECH program are required as part of the application.

### P-TECH Question B-2

Will LEA's apply for each campus, or complete 1 application for the district?

#### Answer

LEAs must apply for each campus seeking this funding. The LASO application accommodates 3 campus submissions per district.

### P-TECH Question B-3

Are there template letters of support for LEAs to reference?

#### Answer

Sample letters of support can be found through previous grant application cycles. The link outlines previously submitted letters of support by district submission.

<https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/grants/grants-administration/grants-awarded/2020-2022-p-tech-and-icia-planning-and-implementation-grant>

<https://www.texasccrsm.org/models/p-tech/p-tech-blueprint>

### P-TECH Question B-4

Should workforce needs, reflect city or state data?

#### Answer

Workforce needs should reflect city or regional data.

## Section C: Program-Related Questions

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### P-TECH Question C-1

What are the differences between ECHS and P-TECH?

#### Answer

In ECHS, students earn a high school diploma in addition to up to 60 college credit hours or an associate degree. ECHS programs require an MOU with an IHE. In P-TECH, students earn a high school diploma in addition to industry-based certifications, Level 1 or 2 certificates, and/or an associate degree while engaging in work-based learning at every grade level. P-TECH programs should be mapped to a CTE program of study. Some ECHS programs offer Level 1 or Level 2 certificates if it is appropriate to their course of study. Additionally, ECHS programs must have a partnership with an IHE, while P-TECH programs must have a partnership with an IHE and a business/industry.

### P-TECH Question C-2

What would be the first year of accountability for a PTECH/ECHS under the CCMRS blueprint?

#### Answer

ECHS/P-TECH campuses are required to meet the CCRSM Outcomes-Based Measures (OBMs) after 5 years of implementation. ECHS/P-TECH campuses will begin implementing in 24-25 under LASO.

### P-TECH Question C-3

Do we need a business partner for each program of study?



### Answer

The P-TECH program requires at least one business partner. It is up to the campus' discretion to determine the number of business partners. Some programs of study may be similar and have the same business partners, where appropriate.

### P-TECH Question C-4

Will the MOU be needed each year, or will LEA's have one for the grant life?

### Answer

An IHE MOU and a Business/Industry agreement is required before P-TECH implementation in 24-25. Following 24-25, we require campuses to revisit the IHE MOU and business agreement annually.

### P-TECH Question C-5

Do we need to have our business partner prior to the grant deadline?

### Answer

A partnership with a business partner, such as a letter of support, is required when you submit the application. A formalized agreement with the business/industry is required when campuses begin implementing the P-TECH in 24-25.

### P-TECH Question C-6

How does the LASO PTECH grant match LEA's with technical assistance providers?

### Answer

Technical assistance is provided at no cost to a school district through our partnership with Educate Texas. Additional professional and contracted services in addition to this free technical assistance is an allowable expense in the grant. We work with Educate Texas to assign leadership coaching based on a number of factors such as geography, experience, and campus profile.

### P-TECH Question C-7

We currently have an MOU with our local community college but want to expand our options. Will this grant allow us to add other partner universities post application?

### Answer

The grant requires at least one IHE partnership upon submission. However, campuses are able to add additional IHE partners post application.

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

## Section E: Funding Questions

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### P-TECH Question E-1

Is the \$100,000 maximum award per district, or per campus?

### Answer

The grant award maximum is \$100,000 per campus, not per district. Districts may apply for multiple campuses. 10 opportunities are available for 10 campuses, but not necessarily 10 different districts.

### P-TECH Question E-2

Is there funding for those 5th year students?

### Answer

P-TECH programs that offer 5th-year programming determine funding for that programming at the local level.

### P-TECH Question E-3

Can an LEA become a PTECH school without receiving the LASO grant?

### Answer

Yes, an LEA can begin implementing P-TECH through applying through the non-funded route via the Program Application Cycle on the designation website found here: <https://texasccrsmdesignation.org/>

### P-TECH Question E-4

For PTECH, is the district responsible for paying for all dual credit taken by the student? Or just the dual credit specific to that Certificate program? Ex: If they are taking dual credit English or Math but pursuing a certificate program in welding that does not have English/Math within the course requirements.

### Answer

As stated in statute, (Texas Education Code (TEC) §§29.551-29.557 and General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 66, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019), the P-TECH program must be free of cost to students.

### P-TECH Question E-5

Can the matching component of this grant be “in-kind”?

### Answer

In general, cost share/matching funds may be derived from three sources: cash contributions, subgrantee in-kind contributions, and third-party (i.e., other than the subgrantee) in-kind contributions.

## Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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### P-TECH Question F-1

Program Guidelines state "Narrative Questions will be scored over 24 points." What is the total number of points that can be earned?

### Answer

Each question will receive a maximum of 12 points for a maximum of 24 overall points

### P-TECH Question F-2

How is “rural classification” defined?

## Answer

Rural classification by TEA standards can be found here:

<https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/school-data/campus-and-district-type-data-search>

## P-TECH Question F-3

Can you please clarify what is meant by "participation in CCRSM network"?

## Answer

Participation in the CCRSM network includes technical assistance, coaching and site visits at no cost to the campus/district. CCRSM campuses also have access to the CCRSM Communities of Practice and can participate in regional convenings and the annual CCRSM summit conference sponsored by TEA and Educate Texas.

# School Action Fund

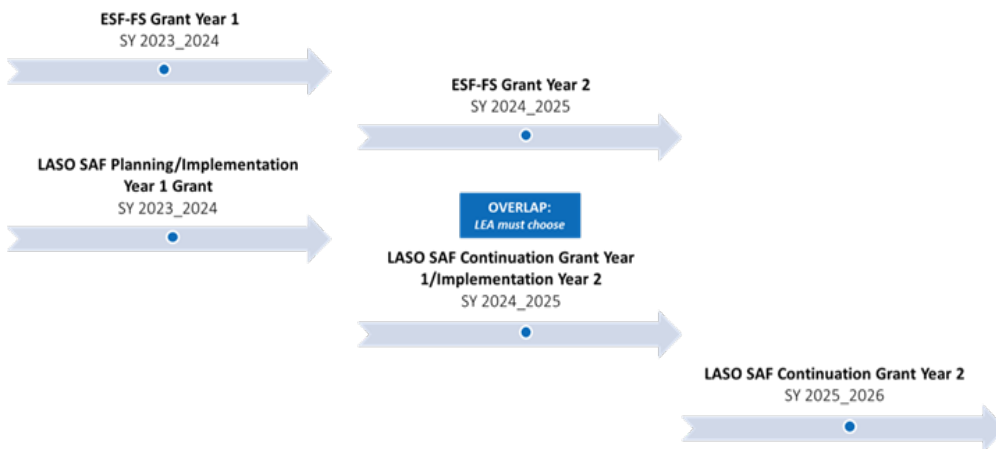
## Section A: Eligibility Questions

### SAF Question A-1

Eligibility states that "applicants pursuing a SAF implementation grant may not receive concurrent funding from the 2021-2023 Effective Schools Framework-Focused Support (ESF-FS) grant." Does this mean that ESF grantees who would pursue a SAF PLANNING grant are still eligible?

## Answer

During the SAF Planning Grant, a campus/LEA may also receive an ESF-Focused Support grant because the campus is still in the planning year. However, a campus/LEA may not concurrently receive a SAF Continuation or Implementation Grant and an ESF-Support Grant because they are both grants that do similar work and are both from the same funding source (Title I). As a result, LEAs would be in the situation of having to relinquish either the district-level ESF-Focused Support Grant(s) for *all* campuses or an *individual* campus-level SAF Grant for a specific school (see diagram below for an example).



### SAF Question A-2

Can a campus receive concurrent ESF-Focused Support and SAF grants?

#### Answer

Please refer to the diagram referenced in A-1.

### SAF Question A-3

If an LEA has met the criteria and began most of this work within the prior school year (21-22), can the district apply for the grant to continue the planning and/or to sustain the work?

#### Answer

Applicants must meet the Eligibility criteria, agree to the Assurances, and fully intend to meet all Statutory and Program Requirements for the applicable Planning grant. There are only two SAF Implementation opportunities – Redesign Rural Collaborative and Restart ACE.

### SAF Question A-4

Can charter schools in Texas apply for these funds as an LEA or is it only for ISD or traditional school districts? I was looking through the eligibility list and wanted to know if the School Action Fund is just for public schools and not open to open-charter schools.

#### Answer

LEAs with eligible campuses can include both traditional public schools and open enrollment charters.

### SAF Question A-5

Our LEA has only 1 campus in the entire district. Can you clarify how I can determine if my campus has a designation of Targeted or Comprehensive Support?

#### Answer

A downloadable sheet of 2022 campus ratings is linked [here](#). Column Z contains the support label which designates whether the support is Targeted, Comprehensive, or neither.

### SAF Question A-6

A colleague told me that TEA typically shares a list of Title I Comprehensive Schools and Targeted Schools with SAF funding opportunities. Is there a list we can look at to see which existing schools are eligible?

#### Answer

The list is posted on both the [TEA Grant Opportunities webpage](#) and the [LASO webpage](#).

### SAF Question A-7

Does LASO include both SAF Planning and SAF Continuation grants?

#### Answer

LASO does not include SAF Continuation grant opportunities.

### SAF Question A-8

Would an 18+ campus serving students who are receiving services under an IEP be eligible for SAF. You mentioned campuses that are under-enrolled. Although not tied to the accountability system, would such a campus that is struggling with enrollment be eligible under Redesign?

### Answer

Please review the SAF Eligibility list which is posted on both the [TEA Grant Opportunities webpage](#) and the [LASO webpage](#).

## Section B: Application-Related Questions

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### SAF Question B-1

Do LEA's need to name the campus in the application?

### Answer

Except for Create a New School, LEA's will need to choose specific campus(es) for this grant. Districts may apply for multiple campuses, multiple actions and grants. If LEAs would like to discuss in more detail which school actions align best with eligible campuses, reach out to the [Center for School Actions](#).

### SAF Question B-2

For the rural collaborative action, only one eligible district needs to apply on behalf of a group of district. How are the other districts included in the selection/interview process?

### Answer

The lead LEA will be the main point of contact for, and to provide responses during, the virtual interview. Other districts proposed to participate in the Collaborative may join the interview in order to demonstrate their commitment to the school action and alignment with the interview scoring categories:

#### **School Action Selection** (25 points)

- Evaluation process and criteria for selecting the school action
- Alignment of school action with overall district strategy for school improvement
- Support from district leadership and school board

#### **Readiness to Plan/Implement** (25 points)

- Understanding of school action requirements and planning activities
- Awareness of school action implementation challenges and mitigation strategies
- Plans for engaging technical assistance organizations
- Presence of existing practices and policies to support school action planning

## Section C: Program-Related Questions

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### SAF Question C-1

Will the School Action Fund LASO presentation be posted somewhere?

### Answer

The presentations for all the LASO grants are posted on the LASO website. The SAF presentation is also posted on the TEA SAF [webpage](#).

### SAF Question C-2

What does “Texas-Partnership Managed” mean?

### Answer

Under a Texas Partnership, the district authorizes a carefully selected partner to operate a school under a performance contract. The partner has responsibility for staff, curriculum, calendar, assessments, and other school-level decision-making while the district holds the partner accountable for academic and financial performance. Texas Partnerships can be “innovation” partnerships or “turnaround” partnerships. More information about Texas Partnerships can be found at <https://txpartnerships.org/>

### SAF Question C-3

Does the grant include opportunities for Pre-K partnerships?

### Answer

LEAs interested in establishing a partnership with a Pre-K provider should apply for the “Create a New Texas Partnership-Managed Campus.” Applicants interested in this action should review the LASO SAF Program Guidelines, and information about Texas Partnerships which can be found at <https://txpartnerships.org/>.

### SAF Question C-4

What exactly does an extended year/day look like?

### Answer

Extended day/year depends on what is best suited for the context of the community and campus and supports the learning needs of the students. The plan must include additional focused instructional time for struggling learners that is built into the day, after-school, or during the summer beyond the required total minimum instructional minutes. This could be accomplished through participation in ADSY or Texas ACE, by providing stipends to teachers for extended time, or other strategies to provide more instructional time for students.

### SAF Question C-5

If we follow the Rural Collaborative Model, will the other schools, those non-eligible or that weren't the applicant district, be required to do the universal components as well?

### Answer

The focus of the Redesign Rural Collaborative model is to expand access to high-quality College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) opportunities for all students. Changes to other campuses in the participating districts may not be necessary depending on local context. The design plan for this model would be co-crafted with the Technical Assistance provider and submitted for approval to TEA. Please connect with the [Center for School Actions](#) to discuss how this is enacted in the Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ), the first Rural Collaborative supported by the School Action Fund.

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

### Section E: Funding Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

### Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

## Technology Lending Grant

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### TLG Question A-1

Would this grant be appropriate for districts who are already 1:1 but wish to upgrade to better, faster devices?

#### Answer

No, upgrading devices is not an allowable use of grant funding. The intent of the grant is to supplement and not to supplant devices already utilized by district students and teachers.

#### TLG Question A-2

What are TEA Available Materials (OER)?

#### Answer

The TEA provides districts and educators with direct access to an optional set of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) designed especially for Texas. These are called [TEA Available Materials](#).

Two types of materials are available to local education agencies (LEAs):

- Core products: full sets of materials designed to cover 100% of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in a grade level/band
- Supplemental products: materials not designed to cover 100% of the TEKS but that complement, enrich, or extend supports in a particular subject and grade band

The type of materials license impacts the length of time educators and districts can access a digital product. There are two types of licenses:

- Open education resources (OER): state-developed digital materials that are freely available forever to Texas school districts and educators
- State licensed: digital materials that are freely available to Texas school districts and educators for a specified time period

Prior to publication, materials go through a rigorous third-party review. Review criteria include TEKS alignment, support for all learners, progress monitoring, implementation supports, and more. Products also are subject to a focus group of Texas educators. For more information on these materials, please visit the [TEA Available Materials page](#).

### TLG Question A-3

Is this for campuses only? If so, does TEA require they have a campus PEIMS ID# on file?

#### Answer

The Technology Lending Grant provides students with the equipment necessary to support learning at school and at home. It is not a requirement to submit a campus list with PEIMS ID numbers with your application. However, as one of the program assurances, the LEA will provide information, such as an inventory log, that includes a list of students, classrooms, and school with access to devices or hotspots upon request by TEA.

### TLG Question A-4

Does eligibility through MIZ include LEAs currently participating in the MIZ Sustainability Grant?

#### Answer

Eligibility includes LEAs who are applying for a new subject (either Math or RLA) and/or those who previously have not gone through Math Innovation Zone.

### TLG Question A-4

Do TLG funded devices have to be utilized using one of the TEA recommended programs (Eureka, amplify, St Math, ETC) district wide or if one campus uses these that will suffice?

#### Answer

It is a TLG program commitment that the LEA assures that the device will be used for instruction with TEA Available Materials (OER) for at least 51% or the majority of the time.

## Section B: Application-Related Questions

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### TLG Question B-1

Would a K-6 campus report all students as elementary?

#### Answer

Yes. For K-6 campuses, please report all students as elementary.

## Section C: Program-Related Questions

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### TLG Question C-1

Do the devices have to be sent home or can they be used only in the classroom?



### Answer

This would be a local decision, but LEAs are accountable for all devices. The grant provides lending equipment to support learning both at school and at home. Please ensure that your LEA has a clear inventory management system for tracking these devices.

### TLG Question C-2

Is this grant separate from the 2023-2025 School Safety Standards Formula Grant?

### Answer

The Technology Lending Grant is separate from the 2023 School Safety Standards Formula Grant. Additional details about the Tech Lending Grant can be found on the LASO webpage.

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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### TLG Question D-1

Can funding be used for Chromebook lease payments during the grant period?

### Answer

A debt service, meaning a lease – purchase service, is not allowed under the Technology Lending Grant Guidelines.

### TLG Question D-2

Can grant funds be used to replace obsolete or end-of-life equipment that is not lost, stolen, or damaged?

### Answer

No. End-of-life equipment is considered to be damaged equipment. As part of TLG's program assurances, the LEA provides assurance that funds provided under the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA) or other funding are **insufficient** to purchase enough lending technology for every student who needs dedicated access to a device.

### TLG Question D-3

May an LEA use TLG funding to update their inventory? Can an LEA use TLG money before exhausting their IMTA funding?

### Answer

Per our assurances, the intent of Technology Lending Grant is to supplement, not supplant. Please be sure to exhaust your IMTA funding first and consider your needs for the upcoming school year.

### TLG Question D-4

Are laptops, interactive displays, document cameras, or iPads acceptable for this grant?

### Answer

Program guidelines allow for “other equipment necessary to access and use electronic instructional materials such as classroom display devices”. If you are hoping to use TLG funding for a document camera or interactive display, please submit the [TLG Classroom Display Device Request](#) form to let us know more about your classroom technology needs.

### TLG Question D-5

Is there a list of allowable projection equipment for the classroom?

#### Answer

Program guidelines allow for technology devices that provide access to digital instructional materials for students. Please visit the Technology Lending Grant Program Guidelines for a list of allowable activities and uses.

### TLG Question D-6

Can an LEA apply for devices based on anticipated growth? (i.e. opening a new campus)?

#### Answer

Yes, although keep in mind the Technology Lending Grant is only supplementary to your Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA) funds. As a program assurance, the LEA agrees that funds provided by IMTA are insufficient to purchase enough lending technology for every student who needs dedicated access to a device.

### TLG Question D-7

If an LEA uses IMA funds for our printed and digital instructional materials and exhausts IMTA funding for technology first, can this grant also be used to cover instructional materials?

#### Answer

The Technology Lending Grant may only be used to cover allowable approved equipment including student devices, residential internet access (hotspots), insurance & care for devices, and other equipment necessary to access and use electronic instructional materials such as classroom display devices.

### TLG Question D-8

Will a list of technology allowable be provided?

#### Answer

Program guidelines allow for technology devices that provide access to digital instructional materials for students. Please visit the Technology Lending Grant Program Guidelines for a list of allowable activities and uses.

### TLG Question D-9

Can this be used to replace laptops and ipads that are gen 5 that will be going out in June 2024 and to continue online testing we would have to purchase newer gen laptops?

#### Answer

If these devices are considered to be end-of-life, the Technology Lending Grant does not cover end-of-life devices. The intent of the grant is supplementary to existing funds. As part of TLG's program assurances, the LEA provides assurance that funds provided under the Instructional Materials and Technology Allotment (IMTA) or other funding are insufficient to purchase enough lending technology for every student who needs dedicated access to a device.

### TLG Question D-10

Do State licensed supplement products count as OER materials required for the Technology Lending Grant?

### Answer

We are allowing all products listed on the TEA Available Materials page to be included in this program assurance. A list can be found here: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/instructional-materials/tea-available-materials>

## Section E: Funding Questions

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### TLG Question E-1

What is the award range for Priority 1 Tier 1?

### Answer

Priority 1 Tier 1 will be awarded an amount up to \$100,000. Priority 1 Tier 2 and Tier 3 will be awarded an amount up to \$225,000.

### TLG Question E-2

If we purchase hotspots in the current grant period, are we responsible for the cost in 2024-2025 or will this grant become available again?

### Answer

Any multi-year service agreement must be payable upon receipt of a single invoice received during the grant period.

### TLG Question E-3

If the grant ends in April of 2024, would the district need to cover the cost of hotspots for the remainder of the school year?

### Answer

Any multi-year service agreement must be payable upon receipt of a single invoice received during the grant period.

### TLG Question E-4

Can LEA's purchase peripherals like headsets, keyboards, mice, or printers?

### Answer

LEA's may only purchase approved equipment including student devices, residential internet access (hotspots), insurance & care for devices, and other equipment necessary to access and use electronic instructional materials such as classroom display devices. Peripherals are not covered under this grant.

### TLG Question E-5

If a district is awarded the LASO Technology Lending grant, when will they be allowed to start spending funds? Do they need to wait until they receive their NOGA?

### Answer

Pre-award costs are permitted from the award announcement date until the start date.

### TLG Question E-6

Is it possible that a district is partially funded for their request?

#### Answer

Award amounts are prioritized based on the number of students needing devices and meeting program eligibility. It is not a guarantee that LEAs would always be awarded the full requested amount; however, TEA will make every effort to exhaust our funding and provide as many LEAs as possible with their full requested amount.

## Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

## Blended Learning Grant

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### BLG Question A-1

If an LEA was awarded the 2021-2023 Blended Learning MIZ Sustainability grant, are they eligible to apply for this grant? (The 2021-2023 MIZ grant ends on May 2023)

#### Answer

Districts previously participating in MIZ or BL-RLA grants may apply again with a different participating campus(s) and/or a different subject.

#### BLG Question A-2

If an LEA did not previously participate in CRIMSI or TCLAS Decision 2, can they apply for BLG?

#### Answer

Due to the grant's intended alignment to Tier 1 materials, applicants will need to be CRIMSI or TCLAS Decision 2 SAVL participants. OER products- Amplify Texas (RLA) and Eureka Math or Carnegie Math, are required when the grant begins.

#### BLG Question A-3

Are there options available for Middle Schools and High Schools?

#### Answer

The eligible grade levels are K-5 for RLA grants and K-8 for MIZ grants.

#### BLG Question A-4

Is an LEA eligible if they are currently participating in a Raising Blended Learners Grant?

### Answer

The Raising Blended Learners Grant is organized through a separate entity so would not factor into LASO Blended Learning Grant eligibility. As with any grant, LEAs would want to consider any supplement-not-supplant assurances for the funding.

### BLG Question A-5

Are current BLG (MIZ/BL-RLA) schools eligible?

### Answer

Active MIZ cohorts are not eligible for MIZ grants. However, districts may apply for the RLA grant. This applies to RLA cohorts, as well, who may apply for the MIZ grant. The intent of the blended learning grants are to design, implement, and scale blended learning across the state.

### BLG Question A-6

Is an LEA eligible if they are awarded the Strong Foundations Implementation grant?

### Answer

Yes, if applicants meet the CRIMSI or TCLAS Decision 2 SAVL participant requirement. MIZ and RLA blended learning grants are providing supplemental digital products aligned to research-based Tier 1 curriculum, the same curriculum used in the Strong Foundations Implementation grant.

### BLG Question A-7

An LEA received a TEA Blended Learning Planning & Execution Grant that ends in 22-23. At that time, the LEA selected a different adaptive online product. Can the LEA continue implementation with the LASO BLG grant?

### Answer

Districts previously participating in MIZ or BL-RLA grants may apply again with a different participating campus(s) and/or a different subject.

## Section B: Application-Related Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

## Section C: Program-Related Questions

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### BLG Question C-1

Are LEAs allowed to get support from their ESC? Will ESCs have the opportunity to become approved providers?

### Answer

ESCs are not currently on the approved vendor list. TEA does not currently have a plan to re-establish approved providers but will ensure all stakeholders are made aware of the opportunity if it arises. If ESCs are providing support or services that serve the blended learning needs of the Blended Learning Grant campuses at the LEA, it could be an eligible expense of grant funds outside of the Design and Implementation or product professional development.

### BLG Question C-2

How do the Strong Foundations Implementation Supports required minutes align with the required minutes for the blended learning?

#### Answer

LEAs will need to implement the Tier 1 curriculum provided through the Strong Foundations Grant with fidelity. Additionally, they will need to create a master schedule allowing for implementation of blended learning that meets targeted student usage requirements of the blended product within the school day.

### BLG Question C-3

Will previous Zearn and MATHia participants be required to participate in planning time, if that planning time already took place?

#### Answer

Professional learning time is required for teachers to provide time for reflection and iteration of the classrooms blended learning implementation, but how the time is divided is largely decided at the LEA level.

### BLG Question C-4

Our district plans to use all three eligible math blended products at this time. However, if something changes from the time we submit, and we are awarded a grant, are we able to submit an amendment on the products we will use?

#### Answer

you may select all three in the application and confirm or amend selections at the summer kickoff meeting.

## Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

## Section E: Funding Questions

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### BLG Question E-1

Can funding be used to support another position to assist with BL implementation? Does it have to be a project manager or, if awarded, could we use it to fund a position like a specialist for extra assistance?

#### Answer

LEAs have flexibility for the specifics of the blended learning role(s) as long as it is directly related to blended learning planning and implementation through the Blended Learning Grant.

## Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

## Additional Days School Year (ADSY PEP)

### Section A: Eligibility Questions

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#### ADSY Question A-1

If LEAs have gone through Cycles 1, 2, or 3 of ADSY PEP Summer, are they still eligible for the LASO ADSY PEP Summer opportunity?

#### Answer

This grant opportunity is focused on providing supports to districts new to ADSY PEP Summer.

### Section B: Application-Related Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

### Section C: Program-Related Questions

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#### ADSY Question C-1

Are all students required to attend the additional 25-30 days or just students needing acceleration support?

#### Answer

LEAs determine targeted student population locally. One statutory requirement to note is that ADSY days must be non-compulsory for students.

#### ADSY Question C-2

Where can an LEA find more information about other LEAs utilizing ADSY supports?

#### Answer

More information can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/learning-support-and-programs/additional-days-school-year>.

#### ADSY Question C-23

Will ESCs be acting as one of the technical assistance providers?

#### Answer

ESCs are not currently on the state approved vendor list of technical assistance providers for ADSY PEP Summer. Any ESCs who are interested in future opportunities are encouraged to email [ADSY@tea.texas.gov](mailto:ADSY@tea.texas.gov).

### Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked

### Section E: Funding Questions

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#### ADSY Question E-1

How can LEAs access ADSY funding without this specific grant?

### Answer

LEAs must meet ADSY eligibility requirements and have a teacher who meets their LEA's certification requirements provide a minimum of 2 hours of instruction on ADSY days. ADSY attendance is submitted to TEA through PEIMS reporting and funding is a part of the foundation school program. More information can be found at [tea.texas.gov/adsy](https://tea.texas.gov/adsy).

### ADSY Question E-2

Other than the planning period, has the funding that is available for ADSY changed from past years?

### Answer

ADSY funding remains the same from 2019. aside from some small changes removing previous limitations for SB 1882 campuses Full statute text can be found [here](#). Any funding changes as a result of the upcoming legislative session will result in corresponding ADSY PEP changes.

## Section F: Competitive Review Questions

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Questions regarding this topic were not asked