General Questions

1. When will the recordings and slides be posted on the website?

Recordings and slide from all webinars will be posted as quickly as possible to the TCLAS website after the webinar concludes.

2. If a district did not apply for one of TCLAS grants by the deadline, will there be another opportunity to apply for an additional TCLAS grant(s) in the future?

TCLAS Decision 11, an afterschool tutoring decision, will be posting in the near future for all eligible LEAs regardless of receipt of the original TCLAS Grant.

TCLAS Grant Questions

3. If the LEA was not awarded funds for a decision, are we obligated to fulfill the decision, or does it opt the LEA out automatically?

The LEA is committing to the listed assurances for the decision points it was awarded. The LEA does not need to commit to assurances for decision points it was not awarded.

4. Do we need board approval for this grant? Do we need to have a public meeting notice for this grant application?

LEAs must follow all local rules and policies when accepting this grant, including those relating to board approval and public meetings.

5. Are TCLAS ESSER III funds then different from the ESSER III funds already received by our district?

Yes. The TCLAS ESSER III funds are the Texas Education Agency's discretionary ESSER III Funds. These are separate from the ESSER III funds the LEA has already received.

6. Was the decision for the boxes to be grayed out, blank, or have a $0 arbitrary or is there some significance if it is one or the other?

Decision points were funded by either ESSER III or General Revenue (GR) funds. These decisions were based on a number of factors including need for pre-award costs.

7. What is the fund number for TCLAS? Are there different fund numbers for projects funded through ESSER III versus GR funds? How will we know if we are receiving funds from ESSER II or GR?

The ESSER III fund code is 279. The GR fund code is 429. The amounts awarded will be indicated on the award letter sent to LEAs via email and in the eGrants system.

8. Is the amount awarded per year or it's a total that needs to be divided into 3 years?

The amount awarded to LEAs from the TCLAS grant is the total funding amount expected to be budgeted over the length of the grant, 2021-2024.

9. Can the budget be amended after a NOGA is issued?

It may be necessary to do an amendment, depending on the details of the situation. The LEA will follow the "When to Amend the Application" document for guidance around creating an amendment. Contact your ESSER Grant Negotiator for assistance.

10. What indirect cost rate can LEA's use?

The LEA may find more information about indirect costs rate on the TEA website.

11. Is there a 25% variance for each object code like in federal grants?

Yes. The LEA will follow the "When to Amend the Application" document for guidance around creating an amendment.

12. Are we using the money values from our award and entering them again into the application? If not, where do we find the values?

Yes. The LEA will find the award values in the award document on the Grant Opportunities page and in the award letter PDF emailed to the LEA.

13. Is there a matching requirement for these grants?

No, there is not a matching requirement for the TCLAS Grant.

14. In an earlier webinar they said there may have been an issue with the budget calculator sent in our email confirmation and there was an updated link. Can you remind us of where the updated link for the budget calculator?

The budget calculator tool has been updated and posted to the TCLAS webpage.

15. If we have both the funds and the in kind will the in-kind award have to be written into the eGrants?

In-kind awards will not be budgeted by the LEA in the eGrants system.

16. What if the LEA was awarded more than what will be needed to meet the requirements?

Award amounts were allocated based on the information submitted by the LEA. The LEA will need to budget all grant funds according to guidance to best meet the needs of the LEA and meet the outcomes and assurances of the awarded decisions points.

17. The LEA grant award identifies if we are receiving ESSER III or GR - correct?

Correct. The grant award PDF and the eGrants system will indicate which funding source(s) the LEA was awarded.

18. If we have decided to decline a portion of the grant we were awarded, do we use the TCLAS email and then zero out that part of the budget?

If the LEA does not feel it can meet the outcomes and assurances of a specific decision point, it will need to email the TCLAS inbox, TCLAS@tea.texas.gov, as soon as possible. The LEA **SHOULD NOT** complete the eGrants application until instructed to do so after reporting inability to meet outcomes and assurances.

19. We have been awarded several Decisions- After reviewing and meeting with district team, we are not sure we would be able to implement some with fidelity. Is it too late to remove ourselves from the commitments?

If the LEA is unable to commit to outcomes and assurances of a specific decision point, please email the TCLAS inbox as TCLAS@tea.texas.gov

20. Is it true with this grant that we can begin expending funds once the grant is submitted? In other words, we do not have to wait for a NOGA, correct?

The TCLAS Grant allows for pre-award expenses. Decision points funded by ESSER III may leverage pre-award costs as of March 1, 2021. Decision points funded by GR may leverage pre-award costs as of September 1, 2021. Pre-award costs for Decision 10 are permitted from September 10, 2021.

21. The Program Guidelines indicated a retroactive purchase allowance back to March 1, 2021 -- is that still applicable?

See answer directly above.

22. Do I have to document pre-award costs separately on the application? If so, where?

No, the LEA will not need to document pre-award costs separately in the eGrants application.

23. Is there an entitlement page for this grant?

The entitlement list for the grant opportunity can be found on the Grant Opportunities [page](#).

24. Does the supplement, not supplant provision apply to this grant program?

The supplement, not supplant provision does not apply to this grant program. Please read more in the [Supplement, not Supplant Handbook](#).

25. Should we budget the funding amount for print materials in our award under 6300 on the budget summary in the eGrants application?

If the LEA is awarded in-kind funds for print materials the LEA will not capture this amount in the eGrants system.

26. Do we have to follow the budget recommendations in the calculator?

The Budget calculator is a tool intended to outline what the agency has outlined to be potential best practice for use of grant funds by decision point. The LEA has complete flexibility to meet its needs to meet outcomes and assurances of each decision point.

27. Can the administration cost be used to compensate the individual who is overseeing the grant/program?

Yes, as stated in the https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/general-and-fiscal-guidelines-7.1.2021-and-after.pdf

Direct Admin costs can be used for overall program administration.

28. According to the TCLAS guidance document: To benefit from pre-award eligibility, LEAs should ensure that local board policy allows for pre-award costs to expedite use of funds resulting from this application. May we just include language in our procedures. TASB states a policy is not necessary.

The LEA is responsible for maintaining locally the local policy that allows for the LEA use of pre-award grant costs. The LEA will not submit this documentation as part of the grant application.

29. Can we budget construction costs to reallocate space to provide offices for new positions?

No. Construction costs are not an allowable use of TCLAS grant funds.

30. Where do I find what Direct Administration Cost can be used for?

Guidance can be found in General and Fiscal Guidelines

31. When do you anticipate issuing the NOGA?

We expect to release a large portion of NOGAs by December 1, 2021. However, if an LEA has determined they are unable to meet outcomes and assurances and have requested further review and support they will be de-prioritized for a NOGA and not be guaranteed to receive the NOGA by December 1, 2021.

eGrants Application Questions

32. Who can I call for eGrants help?

ESSER Negotiators can help grantees with accessing the application, entering information into the application, and submitting the application. See chart on page 14.

33. We will only need to access eGrants if we are receiving direct funding? Our district was awarded funding for services and no direct funding.

Correct. If the LEA was only awarded in-kind funding, the LEA will not need to complete an eGrants application.

34. What level or 'role' will we need in TEAL to complete the application?

A Grantee Official (same as an Authorized Official), a Grantee Manager, or a Grantee Writer can enter content into the application in TEAL. But only a Grantee Official (same as an Authorized Official) can certify and submit the ADC, and only a Grantee Official (same as an Authorized Official) can certify and submit the application.

35. I have located the grant application in eGrants but I am unable to get past the first page where you certify and submit the designation and certification page. The "certify and Submit' button is not active on my screen. How can I get help with this?

The LEA will need to have an 'authorized official' complete the ADC form. Please reach out to the regional Grant Negotiator (chart included above) for further support.

36. Can you please tell me how I submit the GS2200? I've filled it out but it won't let me submit.

The LEA will need to have an 'authorized official' complete the ADC form. Please reach out to the regional Grant Negotiator for further support.

37. Can we stop the application process and continue another day?

Yes. An LEA may enter the eGrants system begin the application, save progress, exit and return at a later time to complete the application.

38. Does our Superintendent need to provide us eGrant TEAL access?

Individuals may request a TEAL login on the TEA website. The superintendent will need to approve access levels within the TEAL system.

39. Is there a "paper" copy of the eGrant form to use to get information together before submitting the information online?

The LEA may find a sample application on the Grant Opportunities Page.

40. Where can we find the example grants application?

The LEA may find a sample application on the Grant Opportunities Page.

41. In eGrants are we applying on our own?

Yes. Shared Service Arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed in this grant program.

42. On the sample template sent in the email it shows the indirect costs. When I go to the eGrants, I want to enter the full amount to use as opposed to having some in indirect costs.

Direct Administrative Costs should be budgeted within each budget object code they will be assigned. Payroll direct administrative costs should be budgeted in 6100, professional and contracted service direct admin costs should be budgeted in 6200, etc.

43. On the ADC form are we applying for TCLAS ESSER III and TCLAS GR? Wasn't sure what GR is?

GR is General Revenue funds. The awarded funding sources will be active in the eGrants system. If an LEA is not awarded a decision point funded by either ESSER III or GR the LEA will see that line grayed out.

44. If we do not want to use indirect costs, how do we change it in eGrants?

If the LEA is not choosing to claim indirect costs, there is no need to change anything. The LEA will budget all funds for Direct Costs.

45. In eGrants, I am able to enter for the TCLAS III but it is grayed out for TCLAS GR.

The GR line being grayed out indicates the LEA was not awarded a decision point that is funded by the TCLAS GR funding source.

Decision Specific Questions

46. Can we use a vendor to contract for the D. 1 Data Fellow position or do they need to be an employee of the LEA?

The LEA may contract with an external individual to fill the Data Fellow position. This cost may be budgeted in 6200 – Professional and Contracted Services.

47. We were awarded decision 1.B. besides the salary, can we budget for things as a laptop and other supplies like you said is okay to do for decision 7b?

Yes, supplies and materials to support an FTE position are an allowable cost.

48. We were awarded 1b Data Strategy FTE position and 7b Funding for ADSY Project Manager. Does this need to be 2 different people or can 1 person do both?

Data fellows are expected to attend all RSSP meetings with their district team, PLCs each month, and creating and setting up the data systems, structures, and protocols for measurement and monitoring of their strategic plan. Similarly, the ADSY Project Manager will be required to drive the strategic plan development over the course of the

planning year, currently estimated at 50% of an FTE. If your LEA believes that one person can manage the two workstreams, then the same person can cover both roles.

49. Can I purchase Forecast 5 software with my supplies funds for my Data Fellow?

Supplies and materials to support the Data Fellow FTE position are an allowable cost.

50. What if the district does not use the entire amount provided for the Data Strategy FTE Position, will any leftover funds be available for use in other areas?

Any remaining funds may be used for supplies, resources, and other materials that support the Data Fellow FTW position.

51. If we received 2b funds through GR but actually have not purchased any print materials and need to move that to the third column, who could help me with that?

Please reach out to TCLAS@tea.texas.gov for more assistance.

52. We were awarded reimbursement for decision 2b. If we feel this is in error and do not want to accept this, who do we contact?

If the LEA is unable to commit to outcomes and assurances of a specific decision point, please email the TCLAS inbox as TCLAS@tea.texas.gov

53. Seeking clarification- So for Decisions 3C and 3D, there is no eGrant, work, correct?

Correct, in-kind grant awards do not require an eGrants application.

54. 3C Decodable Text - how do I request samples?

The LEA may reach out to the publisher vendor to request sample resources. Visit the Learning Dynamics TCLAS webpage to connect with the vendor https://learningdynamicscurriculum.com/. Note: Sample materials provided by the publisher vendor are not representative of finalized Texas specific resources. Learning Dynamics is currently in the process of developing a Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (TPG)/TEKS aligned resource customized for Texas. The samples are intended to be

illustrative, providing a snapshot of materials that serve as the starting point for the finalized Learning Dynamics Texas product.

55. 3C Decodable Text - What do LEAs need to submit and when?

A print order form will be sent through e-mail to TCLAS designated points of contacts in late October through November. The e-mail will include guidance for completing the form and when it is due. LEA's will need to complete the print order form to obtain resources. For more information visit the TCLAS webpage to access Decision 2B & 3C: Print Access Webinar slides and presentation recording.

56. Can you provide some guidance on decision 3e College Bridge? Is the requirement for students to pass with a 90% regardless of district MOU.

If districts want students to receive a developmental education exemption with the Texas College Bridge partnering institutions, then the students must complete the course with 90% mastery (at which point a certificate of completion will be generated and the student can give to the institutions). If the district's local institution has different requirements in their local MOU, then districts will need to ensure course completion as outlined in the MOU.

57. 4a does not allow to add Direct Admin cost to be used for possible subs. How do we entire that?

Substitutes may be covered under 6100 – Payroll costs.

58. For Decision 4, paraprofessionals will be awarded to pay for tuition and other resources. How do we fund this? Reimburse the individuals?

To some extent, this is a district decision. Please confer with your district business office, and refer to the Budgeting Costs Guidance Handbook: https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/budgeting_costs_guidance_handbook.pdf

Regarding tuition:

- If the paraprofessional is a district employee, and if the district will pay the tuition on their behalf, budget this under BS 6101 - Payroll Costs, Part 3, Line 1 or Line 4, as appropriate.

- If the paraprofessional is a district employee, who will pay their own tuition, and then get reimbursed, budget this under BS 6401 – Other Operating Costs, Remaining 6400.

- If the paraprofessional is not a district employee, see https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/budgeting_costs_guidance_handbook.pdf, Page 6, Participant Support Costs for guidance.

Regarding other resources:

- Budget the resources under the appropriate Class Object Code (for example, 6300 for supplies, 6400 for travel).

59. We are applying for decision 4a-I have a question about the budget. Will all funds be for salary-stipends for the paras to use to pay for classes, supplies, or do we need to pay universities and reimburse for supplies?

The funding amount for 4a is split into two categories: (1) candidate reimbursement plus living stipend and (2) indirect plus administrative costs. For example, the $19,000 given for candidates completing both degree and certification is split in the following ways: (1) $18,000 reimbursement plus living stipend for the candidates and (2) $1,000 to cover indirect or administrative costs related to the grant. These amounts are (1) $7,500 and (2) $500 for the $8,000 in funding given for candidates pursuing their certification only.

The stipends are to be delivered to the candidate and/or university once each year. GYO is a two-year grant cycle, thus two payments will be made.

Each LEA will outline in their MOU the process for reimbursing candidates or paying universities directly on behalf of the candidate. Any funding out of the $18,000 or $7,500 that is not needed to cover tuition and supplies is considered an additional living stipend for the candidate. Funding from this amount should not be transferred to administrative or indirect costs.

60. Can you provide clarity on allowable expenditures in Decision 5b for Flexible Funding?

For decision 5b, grant funds must be used to support residency implementation. This could look like funding for mentor stipends, a site supervisor role, training/professional development expenses for mentors, residents, and staff responsible for implementing the residency program, resident recruitment supports, or other means at the LEA's discretion to support the residency and innovative staffing implementation.

61. For decision 6, are we able to use the funds on FEV tutors or campus tutors or is that money for the three vendors only: Amplify, Zearn, and BookNook?

LEAs awarded Decision 6 must utilize one of the subsidized vendors for tutoring materials. The direct grant funds provided may be used to pay for tutors to implement tutoring on the campus(es). There is not a requirement to use the funds provided with the three subsidized providers where the licenses are paid for by TEA.

62. If we were awarded funds for decision 8 and my superintendent did not fill out the Decision 8 correctly, it was sent out again due to an error. Can we receive those funds? How do I go about correcting this error?

Please email the TCLAS inbox at TCLAS@tea.texas.gov for support.

63. When can we initiate the steps to hire the ADSY Project Manager?

Cycle 2 districts (those districts starting their planning year in 21-22) can start initiating the steps to hire at whatever point they are able to at a local level. Cycle 3 and 4 districts who start planning in 22-23 and 23-24 respectively, should initiate the steps to hire in time for the project manager to start by August of their planning year. TEA will also be sending updates to Cycle 3 and 4 districts ahead of their planning years to ensure hiring timelines match program requirements.

64. What happens if we hire an ADSY Project Manager start utilizing the TCLAS grant funding and then during March 2022, the School Board decides not to implement a 210-day calendar?

Project Manager salary should be treated on a year-by-year basis, so funding for the first year of the salary is good through August 31, 2022. If the board does not approve the 210-day calendar, we would ask that the do not spend on PM salary after 8/31/22. Any remaining work for the PM can be for ongoing ADSY-adjacent planning around more brain breaks for students and planning time for teachers. The LEA may find it necessary to amend the application if the board does not approve the 210-day calendar. Please refer to follow the "When to Amend the Application" document for guidance around creating an amendment.

65. Our awards are being funded with general funds. Can we take an indirect rate on the dollar award we got in 9b? If so, what is the indirect rate for that?

Yes. Indirect costs are an option and may be captured in the expenditure reporting system.

66. How much should be budget for Transcend work in planning phase?

All of the Decision 10 matched Technical Assistance Providers, including Transcend, will be funded separately. This amount will not be deducted from the grantees' award(s).

67. For decision 10, does transcend have a set budgeted amount?

All of the Decision 10 matched Technical Assistance Providers, including Transcend, will be funded separately. This amount will not be deducted from the grantees' award(s).

68. Does the project manager have to be hired by November for decision 7?

Cycle 2 districts (planning in 21-22) can start initiating the steps to hire at whatever point they are able to at a local level. Project Manager salary should be treated on a year-by-year basis, so funding for the first year of the salary is good through August 31, 2022. If the board does not approve the 210-day calendar, we would ask that the do not spend on PM salary after 8/31. Any remaining work for the PM can be for ongoing ADSY-adjacent planning around more brain breaks for students and planning time for teachers.

69. When hiring our own tutors under decision 6, what is the acceptable hourly rate?

The LEA has discretion to set hourly tutoring rates. The LEA should consider local policy, and market rates specific to the area of the state in which the LEA is located.
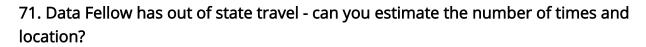
NEW

70. Could you explain how the tutor training works under decision 6. Is the training through each vendor platform or through TEA? What expenses are there with training the tutors that we must budget for?

The ESC's and some select LEAs will be providing training to tutors on the three subsidized vendor's content. LEAs' will need to consult with the training providers to determine additional costs might be included in training.

NEW

71. Data Fellow has out of state travel - can you estimate the number of times and location?

Out of state travel is not allowable by grant program guidelines.

ESSER Negotiator Regional Assignments includes ESSER (also known as ESSER I), CRRSA ESSER II, ARP ESSER III, ESSER Supplemental, ESSER THL, and ESC ESSER Technical Assistance Grant Assignments, and TCLAS	
Region	Negotiator
1	Alexis Garcia Alexis.Garcia@tea.texas.gov 512-463-8525
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8	
9	
10	Gracie Gonzales Gracie.Gonzales@tea.texas.gov 512-463-8525
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15	Christie Mizzell-James Christie.MizzellJames@tea.texas.gov 512-463-8424
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