

LEARNING ACCELERATION SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES (LASO 4) 2025-2026

Eligibility and Prioritization
Guidance Doc

REVISED 10/01/25



Objective

The purpose of this document is to provide eligibility and prioritization criteria that will enable a school system to predict the likelihood of receiving an award.

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Eligibility and Prioritization Guidance- Criteria used in awarding

Historic Award Rate was calculated as a percentage of eligible awards to eligible applications

Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)

(LIFT merges programs formerly known as Strong Foundations- SF, Texas Instructional Leadership- TIL, and Texas Lesson Study- TXLS)

Historic Award Rate: This grant has not been previously awarded through LASO

Eligibility	
Eligible applicants are Texas public school systems that commit to:	
- Selecting and implementing a <u>State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved</u> high-quality instructional material (HQIM) in the 2027–28 school year, or - Implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–27 school year.	
Participation in other grant programs does not disqualify applicants but may be considered during prioritization.	

Prioritization	
Tier 1	School systems with a Commissioner-appointed board of managers*, monitor, or conservator for academic performance.
Tier 2	School systems with an-F rated campus based on 2024-2025 state accountability and school systems with a campus that has been federally identified for school improvement (CSI, ATS, or TSI).
Tier 3	School systems implementing a Bluebonnet Learning product that did not access SFI support for that product in LASO 3.
Tier 4	School systems that previously participated in SFP, SFI, TIL; are currently in TSL and in good standing; or that implemented a CER OER product
Tier 5	School systems classified by TEA as rural
STAAR Scores- rank order from lowest to highest using 3rd grade RLA STAAR scores for K-5 RLA applications, 3rd grade Math STAAR scores for K-5 Math applications, and Algebra I STAAR scores for 6-8 Math applications.	
<i>Note: School systems with calendars <165 days will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. School systems with >165 days, or moving to >165 days, will be prioritized.</i>	
<i>Note: School systems without a full feeder pattern (K-12) will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. School systems with a full feeder pattern will be prioritized.</i>	
<i>*Note: All school systems with a state appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings.</i>	

LIFT Add on: School Improvement PLC Support (LIFT SI PLC)

Historic Award Rate: This grant has not been previously awarded through LASO

Eligibility

Eligible campuses include campuses that are Title I served with a 2025 federal accountability identification, including Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), or Additional Targeted Support (ATS). Comprehensive campuses in their second year of identification (Comprehensive Reidentified or Comprehensive Progress) are also eligible. Campuses must remain in operation during the grant cycle and remain Title I served for the 2026-27 school year.

Note: a school system is eligible to apply to both Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) and LIFT SI PLC Support grants, but if both are awarded, the school system must select the same Approved Provider for both LIFT and the LIFT SI PLC Support grant.

Prioritization

Tier 1	Campuses with a 2025 federal accountability identification of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Comprehensive Reidentified, or Comprehensive Progress.
Tier 2	Campuses with a 2025 federal accountability identification of Additional Targeted Support (ATS)
Tier 3	Campuses with a 2025 federal accountability identification of Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)

Each tier will rank campuses from lowest to highest Overall STAAR scores

Note: School systems with calendars <165 days will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. School systems with >165 days, or moving to >165 days, will be prioritized.

Note: School systems without a full feeder pattern (K-12) will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. School systems with a full feeder pattern will be prioritized.

School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG)

Historic award rate: This grant has not been previously awarded through LASO

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are campuses that are Title I served with a 2025 federal accountability identification, including Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Additional Targeted Support (ATS), or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). Comprehensive campuses in their second year of identification (Comprehensive Reidentified or Comprehensive Progress) are also eligible. Campuses must remain in operation during the grant cycle and maintain Title I status for the 2026–2027 school year.

Campuses must be implementing instructional materials in one of the following ways:

- Using a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved high-quality instructional material (HQIM) other than those in the Bluebonnet Learning suite in eligible grade levels where such materials exist, or
- Focusing on curriculum and instruction improvements in grade levels where an SBOE-approved HQIM list is not available.

Note: Campuses are not required to be recipients of the LIFT grant to apply for this opportunity.

Prioritization

Tier 1	Campuses with a 2025 federal accountability identification of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Comprehensive Reidentified, or Comprehensive Progress.
Tier 2	Campuses with a 2025 federal accountability identification of Additional Targeted Support (ATS)
Tier 3	Campuses with a 2025 federal accountability identification of Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)

Each tier will rank campuses from lowest to highest Overall STAAR scores

Note: School systems with calendars <165 days will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. School systems with >165 days, or moving to >165 days, will be prioritized.

Note: School systems without a full feeder pattern (K-12) will be placed at the bottom of the prioritization list. School systems with a full feeder pattern will be prioritized.

Blended Learning Grant (BLG)

BLG offers two cohorts: Academic Math or RLA cohort and Strategic Operations cohort

Historic Award Rate: LASO 3: 30%; LASO 2: 16%*; LASO 1: 77%

**Award rate decrease contributed by shift in availability in total funding amount*

Eligibility

Eligible applicants to the **Blended Learning Academic** cohort are those school systems who have previously participated or are currently participating in a strong Tier 1 math and/or reading curriculum planning through a TEA initiative(s). Example- LASO 2 Strong Foundations and LASO 1 Strong Foundations.

Eligible applicants to the **Blended Learning Strategic Operations** cohort are those school systems who have previously participated in TEA Blended Learning Grants (i.e. Math Innovation Zones, Blended Learning Grant Program, or School Action Fund Redesign- Blended Learning). Applicants must have shown high usage in approved supplemental products in math and/or reading language arts for grades K-8 in spring of 2025.

Prioritization- Academic Cohort (Tiered)

Criteria	Description
TEA HQIM Implementation	School systems will be prioritized in rank order by participation in specified TEA initiatives. 1a. LASO 2 SFI 1b. LASO 3 SFI 1c. LASO 1 SFI
Board of Managers*	School systems with a commissioner-appointed board of managers* for academic performance
School Week Calendar	School systems implementing 165 or more instructional days
Economically Disadvantaged Population	School systems will be ranked within each priority level by percent of student population identified as economically disadvantaged

**Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings*

Prioritization- Strategic Operations Cohort

Applicants with the highest priority point totals will be selected as a finalist, a minimum threshold of 30 points must be met to be ranked.

Finalists will complete an oral (virtual) interview with TEA and ranked based on the following:

- 10 points | Alignment of Strategic Operations-BLG with overall district strategy
- 10 points | Understanding of operational shift requirements and planning activities
- 10 points | Presence of existing practices and policies to support Strategic Operations-BLG planning
- 05 points | Support from district leadership and school board
- 05 points | Awareness of operational shift implementation challenges and mitigation strategies

Priority Points- Strategic Operations Cohort		
Criteria	Description	Points
Board of Managers* and Weekly Calendar	School Systems with a commissioner-appointed board of managers* for academic performance (5 points) and/or are on a 5-day school week calendar (5 points)	10 points
BL Supplemental Product Participation	The percentage of K-8 blended learning students participating in supplemental product implementation at participating campus(es).	1-14% 0pts 15-40% 5 pts 41-80% 10 pts 81-100% 15 pts
Evidence of Supplemental Product Fidelity	The percentage of students meeting high-fidelity usage of a supplemental product implemented during the Spring of 2025.	1-40% 10 pts 41-55% 15 pts 56-70% 20 pts 71-85% 25 pts 86-100% 30 pts
<i>*Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings</i>		

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP)

Historic Award Rate: LASO 3: 92%; LASO 2: 88%; LASO 1: Did not participate

Eligibility

All Texas Schools

Prioritization

School systems that do not currently offer an AP course	10 Points
School systems that do not currently offer an AP CSP course	10 points
School systems currently receiving AP CSP Grant funds	10 points
School systems adding AP CSP sections or new campuses	10 points
School systems increasing the number of teachers to be AP CSP trained	10 points
Total	50 points

Priority Points

School systems in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged	10 points
School systems classified by TEA district type as rural	10 points
Total	20 points
<i>Note: In the event of a tie, school systems will be prioritized by the school system's prior AP course participation and Economically Disadvantage percentage</i>	

Texas Strategic Staffing (TSS) for Residencies Grant

Historic Award Rate: This grant has not been previously awarded through LASO

Eligibility	
Have a signed EPP Verification form from each EPP partner with a State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC)-approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route (TTRPR).	
Not be recipients of the 2025-27 Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable, Paid Teacher Residency Program (award list here).	
Not be recipients of the 2024-2025 Sustainable Residency Continuation Grant (award list here).	
Prioritization	
Tier 1 up to 30 awards	- Rank the grant applicants in order from greatest to fewest number of new teacher hires with no previous experience teaching using the most recent data available. - Select the top 30 applicants, in terms of the greatest number of new teacher hires with no previous experience, that have NOT previously participated in a Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable, Paid Teacher Residency Programs, and implementing 165 or more instructional days.
Tier 2 up to 20 awards	- Applicants with a new EPP partner for school year 2025-26 or 2026-27 and implementing 165 or more instructional days. (Note: these applicants may have participated in past Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable, Paid Teacher Residency Programs but may not be recipients of the 2025-27 version of the grant.) - Select the top 20 applicants in rank order from the greatest to fewest number of new teacher hires with no previous experience teaching using the most recent data available.
Tier 3	School systems with an appointed board of managers*
Tier 4	All remaining applicants will be awarded in order of the greatest to fewest number of new teacher hires with no previous experience teaching, regardless of past participation in past TSS grant programs or whether the school system has a new EPP partner.
<i>*Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings</i>	

Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Planning and Execution Program (PEP)

Historic Award Rate: LASO 3: 27%; LASO 2: 66%; LASO 1: 41%

Eligibility	
New to ADSY:	
- The participating campus must serve students in one or more grade levels within PK–5. - Participating campuses must operate on a 175-day instructional calendar or have a board-approved plan to implement such a calendar by the 2026–2027 school year. Confirmation of the 2026–2027 academic calendar will be required at the time of award. - Campus must be implementing an IMRA approved product as their Tier 1 during the regular school year.	
Expansion to Grades 6-8	
- The participating campus(es) must serve students in one or more grade levels within 6-8. - Participating campuses must operate on a 175-day instructional calendar or have a board-approved plan to implement such a calendar by the 2026–2027 school year. Confirmation of the 2026–2027 academic calendar will be required at the time of award. - Campus must be implementing an IMRA approved product as their Tier 1 during the regular school year.	

Prioritization Tiers	ADSY PEP Process Disclaimers
Tier 1 175+ instructional days + Any IMRA Approved Full Subject Tier 1 Products at participating campuses	Award Allocation Flexibility For applicants applying with campuses serving Pre-K through 5th grade (Summer and Full Year), priority will be given to school systems that have never drawn down ADSY funds or participated in ADSY and meet the minimum eligibility thresholds. For applicants applying with campuses serving 6-8 grade (Summer and Full Year), priority will be given to school systems that meet the minimum eligibility threshold and demonstrate a consistent history of full participation in ADSY PEP and have not previously withdrawn early or left grant funds unutilized.
Tier 2 170-174 instructional days + Any IMRA Approved Full Subject Tier 1 Products at participating campuses	Tier Advancement If insufficiently qualified applicants exist within a tier, remaining spots will advance to the next tier. High-scoring applicants from lower tiers may be promoted to fill open spots in higher tiers. Scoring Thresholds Minimum scoring thresholds—including interview and total points—may be adjusted based on the overall quality of the applicant pool, with all adjustments applied consistently across applicants and designed to maximize funding utilization while maintaining program integrity.
Tier 3 167-169 instructional days + Any IMRA Approved Full Subject Tier 1	Tie-Breaker Clause In the event of a tie within the PK–5 and grades 6-8 cohorts, the tie will be broken by first prioritizing; - Board of Managers School Systems** meeting ADSY eligibility criteria, then, - School systems with the lowest average STAAR 3rd grade scores in Mathematics and Reading Language Arts (RLA).

Products at participating campuses	If a tie still remains after considerations 1 and 2 above, school systems applying with campuses with a higher percentage of Economically Disadvantaged (Eco Dis) students will be selected. <i>See the ADSY PEP Program Guidelines for the full list of ADSY PEP prioritization process disclaimers.</i>
Priority Points	
Total Points* Available Per Category:	
Strong Instructional Foundation (45 points maximum) - Bluebonnet: 15 points - Other IMRA: 10 points - Prior SFI: 30 points	
Calendar (30 points maximum) 167-169 Calendar: 5 points 170-174 Calendar: 15 points 175+ Calendar: 30 points	
Other Agency Initiative Overlap (20 points maximum) - Resource Campus Designation: 5 points - Board of Managers** School Systems: 5 points - EPP Partnership: 5 points - Approved and Implemented TIA System: 5 points	
Evidence of LEA Strategic Priority for ADSY (30 points maximum) + Interview Total: varies	
<i>* Minimum 60 Priority Points to be ranked and considered for the award. Lower priority points may be considered if space allows</i> <i>**Note: All school systems with a state- appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings</i>	

School Action Fund (SAF)

Historic award rate:

LEA Level: LASO 3: 32%; LASO 2: 38%; LASO 1: 39%

Campus Level: LASO 3: 48%; LASO 2: 47%; LASO 1: 34%

Eligibility
Campuses that are Title I-serving schoolwide designated by September 15, 2025, and are Comprehensive Support-identified, Targeted Support-identified, or Additional Targeted Support-Identified campuses, based on school year 2024-2025 ratings.
For new schools, there must be clear Title I, Part A eligibility and intent to obtain Title I-serving status for school year 2027-2028 and beyond.
Campuses must be SAF grant-eligible at the time of application, and, if awarded a SAF grant, remain Title I-serving schoolwide for the entire grant period.
A campus may not have received any School Action Fund (SAF) grants, including TCLAS Decision 10 and any LASO SAF grants, since 2019-2020 (Planning, Continuation, or Implementation), with the exception of Reassign grantees prior to LASO 1.
If a campus qualifies for multiple Curriculum and Instruction grants, the school system will be invited to an interview to determine the best fit of grants.
TEA reserves the right not to award a grant to a campus or school system that is identified by TEA as a high-risk grantee.

Prioritization
The top 50 campuses as scored by priority points will proceed to a virtual Interview to select awardees. In the case of a tie, campuses with the higher economically disadvantaged percentage will go to the Interview. (For new schools and campuses that have not yet been identified, the school system's (applicant's) average will be considered.)

Priority Points	
Low Student Academic Achievement/Performance: Low achieving campus: 5 points for each (less than 40% of students "Meets" combined Math + RLA STAAR, based on 2023-2024 STAAR data)	Installation of Board of Managers*: Campus in a school system a state appointed Board of Managers* and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings: 5 points for each
Economically Disadvantaged Campus: Economically disadvantaged campus: 10 points for each campus with more than 80% of students identified as economically disadvantaged)	Approved and implemented TIA system: Campus in a school system with a TEA-approved and implemented Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) or Enhanced Teacher Incentive Allotment (E-TIA) system: 5 points for each
Previous SFI grantee and implemented Bluebonnet Learning materials for both Mathematics and Reading: Campus that has previously been awarded a Strong Foundations Implementation grant and has adopted	Board of Trustees-approved and implemented ADSY calendar: School system with a Board of Trustees-approved and implemented ADSY calendar with at least 200 school days: 5 points for each

Bluebonnet Learning materials for both Mathematics and Reading Tier I instruction: 10 points for each	
Evidence of established Office of Innovation or Transformation: School system that has an Office of Innovation/Transformation, with a clearly designated leader and identified on school system-level organizational charts: 5 points for each Note: This is different from being a District of Innovation.	School systems with 5-Day school weeks: School systems implementing 165 or more instructional days.: 5 points for each
<i>*Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings</i>	

Navigating Excellence through Targeted Supports (NEXT)

Historic Award Rate: This grant has not been previously awarded through LASO

Eligibility

- Campuses rated D or F on 2025 TEA Accountability and
- Campuses that **are not** federally designated as CSI, TSI, or ATS
- Campuses that serve grades PK or Kindergarten through 5th grade

Prioritization

- TEA will rank campuses by Overall 2025 scale score, as determined by priority points.
- TEA will award the first 5 campuses based on this list.
- Tie-breaker: TEA will award campuses with the highest economic disadvantage %.

Priority Points

- Board of Manager school systems*: 10 points
- School systems who have participated in Strong Foundations: 10 points
- School systems with a fully approved Teacher Incentive Allotment system: 10 points
- School systems with at least one campus with an ADSY calendar: 10 points
- *Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings*

Early College High School (ECHS)

Historic Award Rate:

LEA Level: LASO 3: 61%; LASO 2: 63%; LASO 1: 43% (23 applied, 10 awarded)

Campus Level: LASO 3: 61%; LASO 2: 48%; LASO 1: 35%

Eligibility

New applicants serving 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 (2027-2028) and will progressively scale up by adding at least one grade level per year after the first year of implementation.

Prioritization

Applicants will be scored on their narrative responses within the LASO application.

Priority Points

TEA classification as Rural: 1 point

TEA classification as upper quartile of at-risk students: 1 point

TEA classification as upper quartile of economically disadvantaged: 1 point

TEA classification as BOM school systems: 1 point

Campus enrollment size under 10,000 students: 2 points

Campuses with 25% of graduates meeting the CCMR dual credit criteria, per the most recent TEA data available: 2 points

BOM* school systems may be invited to an interview to determine readiness

**Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings*

Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)

Historic Award Rate:

LEA Level: LASO 3: 32%; LASO 2: 36%; LASO 1: 27%

Campus Level: LASO 3: 32%; LASO 2: 32%; LASO 1: 27%

Eligibility

NEW applicants serving 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 (2027-2028) and will progressively scale up by adding at least one grade level per year after the first year of implementation.

Prioritization

Applicants will be scored on their narrative responses within the LASO application.

Priority Points

TEA classification as Rural: 1 point

TEA classification as upper quartile of at-risk students: 1 point

TEA classification as upper quartile of economically disadvantaged: 1 point

TEA classification as BOM school systems: 1 point

Campus enrollment size under 10,000 students: 2 points

Campuses with 25% of graduates attaining an IBC, per the most recent TEA data available: 2 points

BOM* school systems may be invited to an interview to determine readiness

**Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings*

Virtual Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)

Historic Award Rate: This grant has not been previously awarded through LASO

Eligibility
School systems or open-enrollment charter schools serving K-12 students
School systems or open-enrollment charter schools that did not previously participate in VHPA.

Prioritization Criteria	Description	Maximum Points
Strategic Plan Alignment	The school system has a strong rationale of how the virtual or hybrid program/campus aligns with the LEA's broader strategic goals or improvement plans, including academic achievement, innovation, and long-term instructional transformation.	10
Leadership Team Experience	The leadership team demonstrates relevant experience and expertise in designing and supporting high-quality virtual or hybrid instruction, including backgrounds in instructional design, digital learning, professional development, and strategic implementation.	10
Stakeholder Interest Data	The school system demonstrated sufficient interest in establishing virtual or hybrid options based on stakeholder engagement data such as surveys, focus groups, and pilot programs.	10
Priority Points	Explanation of priority points listed below	5
Virtual Oral Interview	LEA and campus leaders with the TEA program team	65
Total Possible score		100

Priority Points
1 point for TEA rural classification
2 points for school systems and implementing 165 or more instructional days during year 1 of Continuation/Implementation
2 points for school system that has a Board of Managers installed, as of SY2024-25

Prioritization Matrix- Top prioritization categories

Board of Managers School Systems* • LIFT • BLG • TSS • ADSY • SAF • NEXT • ECHS • PTECH • VHPA	Implementing 165 or more instructional days • LIFT • LIFT SI PLC • SI CISG • BLG • TSS • ADSY • SAF • NEXT • VHPA
Implementing Bluebonnet/OER Product • LIFT • LIFT SI PLC • SI CISG • ADSY • SAF • BLG	Prior Participation; High fidelity of usage/implementation • LIFT • BLG • APCSP • TSS • ADSY • NEXT
Small/Rural • LIFT • APCSP • ECHS • PTECH • VHPA	TIA Participation • SAF • ADSY • NEXT EPP Partner • ADSY • SAF
Economically Disadvantaged • BLG • APCSP • SAF • ECHS • PTECH	District Rating- F-rating • LIFT • NEXT • SAF • LIFT PLC • SI CISG
STAAR Scores- Ranked Lowest to Highest 3rd grade RLA/Math/Algebra I (depending on content applied for) • LIFT • LIFT SI PLC • SI CISG • SAF	Economically Disadvantaged- Upper quartile; Ranked highest to lowest percentage of economically disadvantage • ECHS • PTECH • SAF

**Note: All school systems with a state-appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings*