

Frequently Asked Questions

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

General Questions and Resources

Question: Will we have access to the presentation afterwards as well?

Answer: A copy of the slide deck and a recording of this webinar will be posted to the LASO website in the coming days. The LASO website can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/laso-cycle-3>

Question: Will the individual program webinars be recorded for review at later dates as well?

Answer: Yes, all program webinars will be recorded and posted on LASO website

Question: How do we know the time commitment required for each of the separate grants? (I know it mentions that we should consider the bandwidth of the leaders who would be implementing the grant(s))

Answer: The program specific webinars will include that information.

Question: Is the "Best Fit" one-pager available?

Answer: Grant Best Fit Guidance: <https://tea.texas.gov/media/388981/>

Question: Is the "Eligibility and Prioritization Guidance" available?

Answer: Eligibility and Prioritization Guidance: <https://tea.texas.gov/media/393461/>

Question: Is the "Grant-Specific One-pager available?

Answer: Grant-Specific One-pager: <https://tea.texas.gov/media/392436/>

Section A: Eligibility

Question 1: For SFI PLC Supports and Instructional Leadership grants - do we have to be both Title I AND Federal Identified, or does Title I alone qualify?

Answer 1: For the SFI-SI PLC grant the eligibility would be: Title 1 and Federal Accountability Designation.

Question 2: For the Instructional Leadership Grant, does the campus need to be either Title 1 OR federally identified? or both?

Answer 2: For the Instructional leadership grant, the eligibility would be: Title 1 and Federal Accountability Designation.

Question 3: Are we allowed to choose only one path?

Answer 3: LEA can apply to multiple pathways. Each pathway has their own eligibility criteria. More information about eligibility can grant best fit can be found in our One-Pagers- <https://tea.texas.gov/media/392436/>

Question 4: Are federally identified schools/campuses required to participate in the embedded grants in alignment with the improvement process? Will this replace the Title I, ESF School Improvement Grant and other ESF grants?

Answer 4: The ESF-FSG 2024-2026 is the last iteration of the grant. Title I funds are going to support Instructional Leadership pathway and Strong Foundations School Improvement PLC grant.

Question 5: Is there a list of eligible amounts by LEA?

Answer 5: Eligible award amounts will vary by each grant program. Funding estimates can be found on our grant One-pagers: <https://tea.texas.gov/media/392436/>

Question 6: Is the grant open for any Federal Accountability designation (ATS, TSI, or Comprehensive)?

Answer 6 : Each LASO grant has its own unique eligibility and prioritization and criteria. The following grants prioritize Title I and Federal Accountability Designation:

Strong Foundation Implementation (SFI) School Improvement (SI) PLC Supports

Instructional Leadership (IL)

School Action Fund (SAF)

Question 7: Are these replacing ESF and SIG?

Answer 7: Yes. The SFI-SI-PLC grant now would be the school improvement support for the previous ESF/SIG grants

Question 8: We have a comprehensive campus and 2 TSI campuses with the ESF grant that will run out this year how long before they qualify to go for SAF?

Answer 8: 23-25 awardees are eligible for all C&I pathways, including SAF.

Question 9: If we are currently under LASO 2, can we apply for cycle 3 even though the grant timelines may overlap?

Answer 9: Each LASO Grant program will have its own unique set of eligibility requirements that vary by program. However, LASO Cycle 2 participation in and of itself does not inherently disqualify an LEA from applying to LASO Cycle 3.

Question 10: Do these grants apply to LEAs not in CSI or TSI?

Answer 10: Yes. Eligibility for each grant can be found in our one-pagers- <https://tea.texas.gov/media/392436/>

Question 11: We did the Strong Foundations grant when it was just for Math. Are we eligible to apply for LASO 3 with reading?

Answer 11: Yes, you are eligible to apply for LASO Cycle 3 SFI Reading. Eligible applicants are LEAs implementing approved core instructional materials in school year 2025-26.

Approved core instructional materials pending approval by the State Board of Education through the Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) process include:

- Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Reading Language Arts, Edition 1
- Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Math, Edition 1
- Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Mathematics, Edition 1 (Grades 6-8 and Algebra I)

Additional pilot approved core instructional materials include:

- Aprendizaje Bluebonnet Artes del lenguaje y lectura K-5, Edición 1
- Aprendizaje Bluebonnet Matemáticas K-5, Edición 1

Please note- Prior COVID emergency release versions of instructional materials are not eligible.

Question 12: If we are under the ESF 24-26 grant, when can we apply for LASO?

Answer 12: Recipients of 24-26 ESF-FSG are eligible for grants at the LEA level, and SFI at the campus level, but not the campus level for IL or SFI PLC

Question 13: If a district has an 1882-chapter school campus, and the charter qualifies for the ADSY grant but the district does not because of the number of school days attended by the students, will there be an option or comment session of the grant to explain this situation?

Answer 13: The LEA needs to agree that participating campuses will be moving to ADSY-eligibility, it doesn't need to be LEA wide. So the LEA should can proceed as long as they can make that assurance

Section B: Application-Related Questions

Question 1: How can we get a copy of our submitted application?

Answer 1: A copy of your submitted application will be immediately available for downloading upon submission. Look for the linked PDF at the top right corner once submitted.

Question 2: Will you make available a hardcopy version as a sample of the online version?

Answer: 2 A PDF reference copy of the application will be posted to the LASO website at the start of the grant application period. However, LEAs must submit their application through Qualtrics.

Question 3: Will the presentation be posted?

Answer 3: A copy of the slide deck and a recording of this webinar will be posted to the LASO website in the coming days. The LASO website can be found at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/laso-cycle-3>

Question 4: To clarify, the application link with go to our CEO?

Answer 4: A unique application link will be emailed to the Superintendent listed in AskTED. We strongly suggest that LEAs review their AskTED contact info and update as needed to ensure a timely delivery of their unique LASO application link

Question 5: There are no narrative questions in this application?

Answer 5: The application is primarily non-narrative with very few/minimal narratives requested as attachments.

Question 6: October 14th is a school holiday.

Answer 6: There is a 60-day window to apply for the grant. LEAs can submit the application anytime in the duration of the 60-day window.

Question 7: Are the application questions available in advance? I didn't catch what she just said.

Answer 7: The application will be released on October 14th. Questions will be available at that time.

Question 8: Must agreements/MOUs with IHE's be signed and approved as part of the December 13th submission?

Answer 8: It is not required as a part of the LASO application. Can be submitted later on to the program leads before implementation begins.

Question 9: Is it anyway to add another contact with the superintendent link?

Answer 9: The superintendent is able to share the link directly with other LEA staff.

Question: 10 How will districts receive the application again? Will it be on the LASO website?

Answer 10: The initial link will be sent to Superintendent email. If the LEA requires the link again, the request form will be posted on LASO website on October 14. <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/laso-cycle-3>

Question 11: Will you provide a preview of the application to help LEAs prepare for completing the application fields?

Answer 11: A PDF reference copy of the application will be posted to the LASO website at the start of the grant application period. However, LEAs must submit their application through Qualtrics.

Question 12: Will there be future LASO cycles?

Answer 12: We do plan to offer future LASO cycles as long as the funding is available.

Question 13: I see the Approved Provider list linked inside the one-pager docs. Is this the correct list?

Answer 13: The LASO Cycle 3 State Approved Provider List will be posted at the start of the application window on October 14th. An updated document will be available at the launch of Cycle 3's application. Thank you for checking.

Question 14: Do approved providers need to be selected in the application?

Answer 14: Approved providers do not need to be selected until awards are named in February 2025

Section C: Program-Related Questions

Strong Foundations Planning and Implementation

Question 1: Will districts be allowed to continue Implementation into another year if we already have SFI?

Answer 1: Past participation does not impact and LEA's ability to apply. Previous SFI LEAs are welcome to apply.

Question 2: Will districts be allowed to continue Implementation into another year if we already have SFI?

Answer 2: As long as LEA are switching to OER edition 1, they will be able to continue with SFI. LEAs would not be able to receive SFI support if they continue using CER.

Question 3: Could an LEA apply for SFI for 9 campuses (all Title 1), but add on the PLC supports only for the 4 campuses identified for school improvement?

Answer 3: It is LEA's choice on which campuses they would like to apply for any given grant. (considering the campus still meets all eligibility requirements). The eligibility information can be found in one-pagers: <https://tea.texas.gov/media/392436/>

Question 4: Are districts able to apply or be awarded SFI in K-5 ELAR and Math?

Answer 4: SFI supports: K-5 math, 6-8 Math, Algebra 1, and K-5 RLA

Question 5: If we currently have SFI for ELAR and are implementing OER curriculum, are we able to apply and be awarded SFI to continue implementing the approved curriculum?

Answer 5: LASO Cycle 3 will switch to the updated OER Edition 1 materials. The COVID Emergency Release (CER) versions of the OER instructional materials (also called Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Eureka Math TEKS Edition, and Carnegie Learning 6-12 Texas Math Solution) are the base products for the OER Bluebonnet Learning Edition 1 instructional materials; however, significant revisions/upgrades have been made to the CER

versions. LASO 3 Strong Foundations Implementation grants will only be available for districts implementing the OER Bluebonnet Learning Edition 1 instructional materials.

Question 6: What is the requirement to be considered in “good standing” from previous SFP? We withdrew from SFP in Cycle 1 but we would like to apply for Cycle 3. We qualify for one of the priority tiers.

Answer 6: In order to be considered for LASO cycle 3, at the time of the application, good standing would be completion of cycle 1 LASO SFP + Strong Foundations Instructional Framework Development Grant 22-23. The Strong Foundations team would be best equipped to address your LEA's specific circumstances. Please reach out to strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov for follow-up

Question 7: Will the agency recommend districts to apply for SFP when recommending SFI? The planning is SO important for districts before implementation.

Answer 7: Previous participation in Strong Foundations Planning is highly recommended, but not currently required to apply for Strong Foundations Implementation.

Question 8: For SFI will the grant include the textbooks?

Answer 8: Strong Foundations Implementation does not include in-kind print materials in Cycle 3. SFI does allow for up to 30% of grant funds for print materials.

Question 9: Do you have the list of OER instructional materials? Are there predetermined resources?

Answer 9: Approved core instructional materials pending approval by the State Board of Education through the Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) process include:

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- Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Reading Language Arts, Edition 1
- Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Math, Edition 1
- Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Mathematics, Edition 1 (Grades 6-8 and Algebra I)

Additional pilot approved core instructional materials include:

- Aprendizaje Bluebonnet Artes del lenguaje y lectura K-5, Edición 1
- Aprendizaje Bluebonnet Matemáticas K-5, Edición 1

Technology Lending Grant

Question 1: Are graphing calculators/math calculators an eligible purchase in the TLG grant in LASO 3.0?

Answer 1: No, those are not eligible hardware purchases.

Blended Learning Grant

Question 1: If we are currently using the blended learning grant are we ineligible to apply for LASO 3 BLG?

Answer 1: The Blended Learning Strategic Operations pathway is available for LEAs who have previously participated in TEA Blended Learning Grants. Applicants must have shown high usage in approved supplemental products in math and/or reading language arts for grades K-8 in spring of 2024

Question 2: Where is the Blended Learning Strategic Operations Pathway?

Answer 2: The Blended Learning Strategic Operations Pathway is an option within the Blended Learning Grant.

Question 3: Will it be under the BLG?

Answer 3: Yes, The Blended Learning Strategic Operations Pathway is an option within the Blended Learning Grant.

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles

Question 4: Is the provider list for APCSP posted? Or is it the same list from 2.0?

Answer 4: The provider list will be posted on the LASO Website on October 14th, at the start of the application period. LASO Cycle 3 website: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/laso-cycle-3>

Question 5: Are the guidelines for APCSP the same as 2.0 or will new guidelines be posted on 10/14, as well?

Answer 5: Guidelines for ASPCP will be posted along with all other LASO grants on October 14.

Additional Days School Year Summer Planning and Implementation

Question 1: If a district has a 1882 chapter school campus, and the charter qualifies for the **ADSY** grant but the district does not because of the number of school days attended by the students, will there be an option or comment session of the grant to explain this situation?

Answer 1: The LEA needs to agree that participating campuses will be moving to ADSY-eligibility, it doesn't need to be LEA wide. So they should be able to proceed as long as they can make that assurance

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

Question 1: Does this include CTE grants?

Answer 1: Yes, we do have CTE grants like PTECH and ECHS included in LASO cycle 3

Section D: Allowable Use of Funds Questions

Question 1: Where can we find information about how the grant funding can/must be spent?

Answer: 1 High-level information can be found in grant one pagers and best-fit guidance. A full listing of allowable spending guidelines can be found within each grant's Program Guidelines, released on October 14th. Grant One-Pagers: <https://tea.texas.gov/media/392436/>; Grant Best Fit Guidance: <https://tea.texas.gov/media/388981/>

Section E: Funding Questions

Question 1: If awarded, when will the first allotment of funds be distributed to LEAs?

Answer 1: The NOGAs are anticipated to be issued by 5/24 depending on LEA completing all the ADC and budget application in e-Grants

Section F: Competitive Review Questions

Question 1: Are more points awarded for Comprehensive Campuses?

Answer 1: The following grants prioritize Title I and Federal Accountability Designation: Strong Foundation Implementation (SFI) School Improvement (SI) PLC Supports

Instructional Leadership (IL)
School Action Fund (SAF)

Question 2: What is the requirement to be considered in “good standing” from previous SFP? We withdrew from SFP in Cycle 1 but we would like to apply for Cycle 3. We qualify for one of the priority tiers.

Answer 2: In order to be considered for LASO cycle 3, at the time of the application, good standing would be completion of cycle 1 LASO SFP + Strong Foundations Instructional Framework Development Grant 22-23

Question 3: Are these grants considered to be competitive or formula?

Answer 3: LASO grants are informal discretionary competitive.