

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.

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General Questions and Resources

Refer to the General Webinar FAQ deck [here](#), for information on Program Guidelines, Webinar Decks, Guidance Docs, and more.

Below are the FAQs related to the Early College High School (ECHS) Initiative:

Section A: Program Overview

What is the purpose of the Early College High School (ECHS) program initiative?

- The Early College High School (ECHS) program offers campuses an opportunity to plan to build an Early College High School within their district. The Early College High School program supports school systems to implement models that enable underserved students to earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree concurrently and at no cost to the students. The ECHS program requires a campus to maintain a partnership with an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide dual credit opportunities to the ECHS students

Will there be an implementation grant for ECHS this year? We have the initial planning grant but we were under the assumption there would be an implementation grant this year.

- The LASO ECHS and P-TECH grants cover two years. There is no additional "implementation grant" opportunity as of this time.

Are the requirements and program guidelines the same for the LASO 3 ECHS and LASO 4 ECHS?

- They are similar but different. Here is a copy of the LASO 4 program guidelines for your review: [Early College High School Program Guidelines](#)

Is a CSI campus eligible to apply?

- Yes. Here are the Eligibility statements from the Program Guidelines:
 - 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.
 - All current ECHS planning, provisional or designated campuses are not eligible to apply.
 - All recipients of previous ECHS Planning and Implementation or LASO Grants are not eligible to apply.
 - Any campus that has been given CCRSM Needs Improvement status is not eligible to apply.

If we have a current ECHS program (planning, provisional or designated) can we apply for the LASO 4 ECHS grant?

- No, current ECHS programs (planning, provisional or designated) are not eligible to apply for the LASO 4 ECHS grant.

Where do we find the CCRSM Needs Improvement information?

- CCRSM Designated - Needs Improvement Status Overview - CCRSM:
<https://texascrrsm.org/resources/resource-library/ccrsm-designated-needs-improvement-status-overview/>

Section B: Application and Submission

How do I get a link to the application?

- District superintendents received a unique link to access the Qualtrics application via email on October 3, 2025.
- For districts that did not receive a unique link or would like a new link, please complete this [LASO 4 Application Request Form](#), to receive your unique link.
- If you are an 1882 partnership *for PREP allotments only*, and need an application link, please complete this [LASO 4 1882 Application Request Form](#), to receive your unique link.

When is the deadline to apply?

- 12/3/2025 at 5:00 PM CST.

Section C: Funding and Compliance

When will I receive my NOGA?

- eGrants Award Acceptance Window: Feb 3 – Mar 5 (school systems accept or decline potential awards).
- NOGA Issuance: Processed within 60 days in order of receipt.
- NOGAs are issued in the order that eGrants application acceptances are submitted by the school systems. Delays in submitting acceptance may result in delayed NOGA issuance.

What are the allowable uses of funds?

- Payroll costs
- Professional and contracted services
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials
- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include SBITA, but there are other non-allowable debt service options (see unallowable)
 - Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514)

- Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Interest Costs (6526)
- Capital outlay.
- Operating transfers out.
- Teacher professional development.
- Staff and student tuition and fees for higher education, public, and nonpublic schools for the following: Services rendered by institutions of higher education (IHEs) for the benefit of local educational agency (LEA) personnel when payment is made directly to the institution.
- Staff and student tuition and fees for higher education, public, and nonpublic schools for the following: Tuition when the LEA is under contract to provide instructional services to students.
- Staff and student tuition and fees for higher education, public, and nonpublic schools for the following: Other tuition and transfer payments not detailed above NOTE: If tuition is to be paid by the staff or student participant and then reimbursed upon completion of the course, budget this cost in Other Operating Costs (6400).
- Other Allowable Operating Costs Requiring Specific Approval in the Grant Application (6400)
Field Trips Field trips may be funded under the Grant program.
- Only the following types of field trips may be allowable:
 - Same-day field trips for ECHS students to partner IHEs or partner industry sites. Field trips will require a written justification form to be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request. To access the Justification for Educational Field Trips form, refer to the Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification page.
- Stipends for Non-Employees Other Than Those Included in 6419. Stipends for non-employees will require pre-authorization in writing. To access the pre-authorization form for participant support costs, refer to the Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification page.
- Non-Employee Costs for Conferences Non-employee costs for conferences may be funded under the Grant program. Costs must be managed to minimize costs to the Grant award. The following types of conferences may be allowable:
 - CCRSM Regional Convenings
 - CCRSM Leadership Summit
 - CCRSM Showcases
 - CCRSM Regional Collectives
 - CCRSM Partners Connect
- Non-employee costs for conferences will require pre-authorization in writing. To access the pre-authorization form for participant support costs, refer to the Forms for Prior Approval, Disclosure, and Justification page.
- Travel costs for officials such as the executive director, superintendent, or board members may be funded under the Grant program. Only the following travel costs may be allowable for these positions.
 - Relevant in-state ECHS/CCRSM travel

Section D: Implementation and Monitoring

What are the key program commitments?

- ECHS Model Planning and Implementation: Districts will engage in 12-18 months of ECHS model planning and implementing design elements and requirements aligned to the ECHS Blueprint.
- Crosswalks: Together, the District and IHE develop course equivalent crosswalks which lead to earning associate degrees or completion of the Texas Core Curriculum, to provide stackable credentials as students advance in the academic pipeline.
- Personalized Learning Environment: Collaborate with IHE to personalize the learning environment for students by developing individualized student plans for ongoing academic support, filing a degree plan, and the attainment of long-term goals. The ECHS and IHE shall develop robust college and career advising systems to support student plans and advance academic progress, and shall develop a process for collaboration to provide an academic bridge across the two educational systems.
- Postsecondary Training: ECHS campuses must have identified an accredited higher education institution(s) for postsecondary opportunities.

Note: This is not a comprehensive list of all assurances or requirements. The full list of requirements is provided in the program guidelines.

How will performance be evaluated?

- The TEA's designation process for Early College High Schools (ECHS) is authorized under TEC §29.908(b) and TAC §102.1091. To earn and maintain designation, ECHS programs must annually apply through the Program Application Cycle (PAC), demonstrate implementation of required design benchmarks, and meet Outcomes-Based Measures (OBMs) after five years of serving students.

Section E: Support and Resources

Where can I find additional resources or training?

- You may find additional resources at this website: <https://texascrrsm.org/>

What support can I expect from an Approved Provider?

- CCRSM campuses are required to collaborate with the TEA Technical Assistance provider (Educate Texas) to receive and participate in free services and events that include
 - Expert Coaching Support
 - Site Visits
 - Virtual Community of Practice
 - Tailored CCRSM Resources and Templates
 - Focused Professional Development
 - Regional and Statewide Events

Section D: Contact Information

Who should I contact for questions?

- Darin Ford, CCRSM Coordinator at ccrsm@tea.texas.gov