

Informal Discretionary Competition (Grant)

LASO Cycle 4 (2025-2026)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2026-2028 Early College High School (ECHS) Grant Program Guidelines

Authorized by the General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider
48, 89th Texas Legislature



Grant Application Due Date
December 3, 2025; 5:00 p.m. CST

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Grant Program Guidelines

Grant Name as it will appear on the TEA Grant Opportunities Page	Early College High School Planning and Implementation Grant
Application Due Date	December 3, 2025; 5:00 p.m. CT
Program Authority	General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 48, 89th Texas Legislature

Introduction

TEA, as the pass-through entity¹, is the grantee² from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and TEA awards subgrants to non-federal entities³ including school districts, charter schools, and education service centers, and to a lesser degree institutions of higher education (IHEs), and nonprofit organizations (NPOs) who are the agency's subgrantees⁴. These guidelines apply to all subgrantees of TEA, regardless of whether referenced herein as subgrantee or grantee. For purposes of this document, TEA may use the terms grantee and subgrantee synonymously for its subrecipients.

This part of the request for application (RFA), Program Guidelines, is to be used in conjunction with the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) and any application instructions.

For applicants selected for funding, all guidelines and instructions will be incorporated by reference into the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines

The Program Guidelines provide information specifically relevant to this grant program. The [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) provide information relevant to all TEA grant programs. Throughout the Program Guidelines, cross-references are given to applicable sections of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#). It is critical that you review all referenced sections of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) when preparing your application.

Errata Notices

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Errata Notices.

¹ Pass-through entity is defined as a non-Federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal program. (2 CFR 200.74)

² Grantee is defined as the legal entity to which a grant is awarded and that is accountable to the federal government for the use of the funds provided. The term "grantee" does not include any secondary recipients, such as subgrantees and contractors that may receive funds from a grantee. (34 CFR 77)

³ Non-federal entity is defined as a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient. (2 CFR 200.69)

⁴ Subgrantee is defined by TEA to be the same as a subrecipient which is defined as a non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. (2 CFR 200.93) Subgrantee is defined in 34 CFR 77 as the legal entity to which a subgrant is awarded and that is accountable to the grantee for the use of the funds provided.

Overview of the IDC Process

The following steps provide a high-level overview of the process for responding to a grant opportunity, including submitting an application, and being selected for funding:

1. TEA publishes IDC application and supporting documents on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#).
2. Eligible applicants submit the grant application via Qualtrics by the specified deadline in this document.
3. Grant applications are reviewed and scored. Note: The highest scoring applicants may be required to attend an oral interview or respond to questions regarding their IDC application.
4. TEA announces applicants selected for funding on the TEA [Grants Awarded Data](#) webpage.
5. Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit and certify an eGrants funding application including assurances and a budget summary to receive funding. Note: All data submitted in the grant application is incorporated into the eGrants funding application under the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).
6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the IDC application.
7. Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

Contact for Clarifying Information

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *TEA Contacts*.

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Grant Program Contact

Program manager name	Darin Ford
Program manager title	CCRSM Coordinator
Program manager email	ccrsm@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	(512) 936-6060

Additional Program Contact

Program manager name	Krystal Garza
Program manager title	Director, Postsecondary Preparation Programs
Program manager email	ccrsm@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	(512) 936-6060

Funding Contact

Program manager name	Competitive Grants Unit
Program manager title	Grants Administration Division
Program manager email	competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	(512) 463-8525

U.S. Department of Education and/or State Appropriations

The following is provided in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education Appropriations Act:

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Total funds available for this project	\$800,000
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	0%
Amount of federal funds	\$0
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources	100%
Amount of nonfederal funds	\$800,000

* Should additional funding become available for this program, the agency may add it to the base amount indicated above and fund additional qualifying awardees till all funding is exhausted.

Timeline

For all dates related to the grant, including reporting dates, see the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page. If a report due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the report will be due the following business day. All dates except the grant ending date may vary slightly as conditions require.

Date	Event
September 16, 17, 2025	General Webinar schedule Tuesday, September 16, 2025 (9:30-10:30 am CT)- Option 1 Wednesday, September 17, 2025 (3:00-4:00 pm CT)- Option 2
October 3, 2025	Grant application available
October 7, 14, 2025	ECHS Program Webinar schedule Tuesday, Oct 7, 2025 (2:00-3:00 pm CT)- Option 1 Tuesday, Oct 14, 2025 (2:00-3:00 pm CT)- Option 2
October 26, 2025	FAQ deadline
November 3, 2025	FAQ Publishing The FAQs for this grant program will be posted to the TEA Grant Opportunities page and LASO website no later than the date listed on the Grant Timeline. Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at LASO@tea.texas.gov See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Frequently Asked Questions
December 3, 2025	Due date for the IDC Qualtrics application. The IDC application must be received by the TEA by 5:00 p.m., Central Time. LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 3, 2025. Please see the LASO website for more information. See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Application Due Date and Time
December 4, 2025 - January 30, 2026	Application review period, including interviews if necessary See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Review Process
February 2, 2026	Anticipated award announcement
February 2, 2026	eGrants ADC and Application opens for awarded applicants
March 2, 2026	Due Date for eGrants Application
March 1, 2026	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period
January 29, 2028	Amendment due date (if selected for funding)
April 30, 2028	End date of grant (if selected for funding)

Grant at a Glance

This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the grant program.

Authorizing Legislation

This grant is authorized by the General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 48, 89th Texas Legislature.

Where to Submit the Grant Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 3, 2025. Please see the [LASO website](#) for more information.

Purpose of Program

The Early College High School (ECHS) program offers campuses an opportunity to plan to build an Early College High School within their district. This program offers opportunities for campuses to provide targeted supports for underserved students through rigorous instruction and accelerated postsecondary courses and provide academic and wrap-around strategies that help students succeed in college-level coursework 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 academy students.

Eligible Applicants

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Eligibility for Funding.

The eligible applicants are:

- 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 Grants are not eligible to apply.
- All recipients of a previous LASO ECHS Grant are not eligible to apply.
- Any campus that has been given CCRSM Needs Improvement status is not eligible to apply.

Education Service Centers (ESCs) are not eligible to apply.

Eligibility List

There is not an eligibility list for this grant program.

Shared Services Arrangement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Shared Services Arrangements.

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed for this grant program.

Application Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines: Continuation Funding, Fund Management, and Use of Funds](#).

It is anticipated that approximately 8 applicants will be awarded up to \$100,000.

** Should additional funding become available for this program, the agency may add it to the base amount indicated above and fund additional qualifying awardees till all funding is exhausted.*

Selection of Applicants for Funding

Applicants will be selected in rank order.

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Cost Share/Match Requirement.

TEA requires a 20% cost share/match for this program.

Supplement, Not Supplant

For supplement, not supplant guidance, see the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook on the Department of Grant Compliance and Administration's [Training and Other Resources](#) page.

The supplement, not supplant provision, does apply to this grant program.

Limitation of Administrative Funds

TEA limits the amount of funds that may be budgeted to administer the program, including direct administrative costs and indirect costs, to no more than 15% of the total grant awarded.

For this state-funded Grant, the Grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to **the lesser** of its current, approved restricted indirect cost rate or 15%.

To calculate the maximum indirect costs that can be claimed for a Grant, complete the [Maximum Indirect Costs Worksheet](#), located on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page.

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Administrative Costs*.

NOTE: Administrative funds include **both** direct administrative costs **and** allowable indirect costs.

Pre-Award Costs

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Pre-Award Costs.

Pre-award costs are not permitted for this grant.

Grant Application

This section identifies the types of requirements in which applicants must comply to be eligible for funding:

- Statutory requirements (requirements defined in the authorizing statute)
- TEA program requirements (requirements defined by TEA program staff)

Statutorily Required Responses

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Statutory Requirements.

The following requirements are defined in the statute that authorizes this program.

The applicant must comply with each of these requirements in the application to be considered for funding:

1. ECHS program: A school established under Texas Education Code (TEC), §29.908, that enables a student in Grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 who is at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by TEC, §29.081, or who wishes to accelerate completion of high school to combine high school courses and college-level courses. An ECHS program must provide for a course of study that, on or before the fifth anniversary of a student's first day of high school, enables a participating student to receive both a high school diploma and either an applied or academic associate degree, with a completed field of study curriculum, as defined by (TEC), §61.823, that is transferable toward a baccalaureate degree at one or more general academic teaching institutions, as defined by TEC, §61.003.
2. The ECHS campus must enter into an articulation agreement with IHEs that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.25.

TEA Application Required Responses

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), TEA Program Requirements.

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements. Applicants must address within the application how they will achieve the following:

1. The ECHS campus must establish a Leadership Design Team to guide the campus to begin serving students in the ECHS and provide leadership for the campus regarding ECHS Leadership Design team members.
2. The ECHS campus must submit a data report of leadership team members, meeting dates, and agendas (including attendance) to be posted on the school's website.
3. The ECHS campus must develop wrap-around strategies and services involving multiple stakeholders (parents, teachers, counselors, community members, etc.) to strengthen the academic, behavioral, and mental health supports necessary for high school and college readiness and to be successful in rigorous

academic and work-based educational experiences.

Statutory and Program-Specific Assurances

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Provisions and Assurances.

The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this Grant will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.

1. The applicant assures that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
2. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the Program Guidelines.
3. The applicant assures to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
4. The applicant assures that any Electronic Information Resources (EIR) produced as part of this agreement will comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements as specified in 1 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.
5. The applicant acknowledges that Per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives Grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a Grantee or subGrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding Grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fingerprinting Requirement.
6. Equal Treatment of All Persons: Consistent with Article I, Section 3a of the Texas Constitution, the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, federal and State law, and Executive Order No. GA-55, Subrecipient represents and warrants that: 1. All conduct under this Subaward shall be administered and performed in a neutral manner without regard to race of persons; 2. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, elevate one individual person over another, or advantage any one person over another, due to race; 3. Subrecipient shall not, in the specific performance of this Subaward, employ practices or engage in any advancement of the programs known as DEI, critical race theory, affirmative action, or other similar, divisive agendas; 4. Subrecipient's staff, agents, subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors that are selected and employed in the specific performance of this Subaward shall be selected and employed solely on merit and the ability to perform; and 5. Subrecipient shall ensure that any subgrantees, contractors and their subcontractors participating in the specific performance of this Subaward represent and warrant to the provisions of this clause.
7. Biological Sex and No Preferred Pronouns: Subrecipient represents and warrants that it shall ensure that all actions in specific performance of this Subaward shall comply with federal and state law and

reflect that there are only two sexes. Subrecipient's employees, officers, representatives, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, and agents shall not, in performance of this Subaward, present, direct, request, or suggest the use of preferred personal pronouns in professional correspondence or presentations.

8. The LEA will maintain current contact information in AskTED to ensure timely communication.
9. The LEA will regularly submit their expenditures (monthly preferred, quarterly at minimum) to remain on track for grant expenditures.
10. ECHS campuses must submit a recruitment plan that includes marketing materials (in English/Spanish) and timelines.
11. At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit a data report of enrollment guidelines that follow the enrollment requirements outlined in the statutory requirements of this grant. Enrollment Guidelines should clearly document enrollment policies and practices to include admissions policies of performance-blind, open access systems that encourage and consider applications from all students or a weighted lottery that factors 10 students who are at-risk as defined by the PEIMS (TEC §29.081) or who are part of the targeted subpopulations for ECHS.
12. At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit a data report of stakeholder input methods used to obtain input about the implementation of the program from students, parents, community, postsecondary partners, with regular activities to educate students, parents, counselors, community, district staff, and school board members.
13. At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit an academic year signed and dated memorandum of understanding (MOU) and course articulation agreement with one or more college partners that fulfills the statutory requirements of this grant. The agreement must address curriculum alignment, instructional material, instructional calendar, courses of study that lead to an associate degree or up to 60 hours of college credit toward a baccalaureate degree, student enrollment and attendance, grading periods and policies, administration of statewide assessments, and data-sharing policies and procedures.
14. At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit a plan of wrap-around strategies and services to provide academic, behavioral, and mental health supports for student success to include a plan for academic mentoring of faculty and student supports for intervention and acceleration, counseling, guidance, and student advisory services for academic, and mental health supports, and behavioral and mental health supports such as parent outreach, connections to social services when needed, and peer mentoring.
15. The applicant agrees to complete and submit the required CCRSM planning application prior to the beginning of the next school year.

The program-specific assurances for this Grant program are listed in the Grant application.

Program Elements

Description of Program

The ECHS program is an open-enrollment initiative that integrates college and high school coursework, enabling students to earn a high school diploma and associate degree while still in high school. Designed to support underserved and at-risk students, Early College High Schools offer a successful pathway to postsecondary education. The ECHS program requires that campuses maintain a partnership with an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide dual credit opportunities.

Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to collect data and report on the following mandatory performance and evaluation measures:

1. The applicant agrees to collect data and report on the stakeholder input methods used to gather feedback about the program's implementation from students, parents, community members, and postsecondary partners.
2. The applicant agrees to collect and report data on the annual CCRSM annual designation application and submit it to TEA upon request.

Limits on Contracted Evaluators

Applicants should make every effort to ensure that contracted evaluators are independent and objective.

Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Refer to the [Budgeting Costs Guidance Handbook](#) on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page for general guidance on allowable activities and use of funds.

Allowable activities and use of funds for this Grant include only the following:

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Include from the following list any applicable activities and any other general uses of funds allowed for the Grant program. If programmatic allowable activities are more specific, as appropriate use that language instead. If limitations apply, include them (e.g., specific payroll positions, required contracts, etc.). If an activity is NOT allowable for this Grant program, add to the Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds list, and check the box and we will delete the activity

- 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)
 - a. Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) – Principal Costs (6514)
 - b. 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
- CRSM 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 Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members

Travel costs for officials such as 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.

Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds

Refer to the [Budgeting Costs Guidance Handbook](#) on the Grants Administration Division's [Grant Resources](#) page for general guidance on unallowable costs.

- Out of state travel.
- Cost of membership in civic/community organization.
- An advisory council.
- Food, beverage, and snacks.

In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this Grant include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — unallowable costs include:
 - a. Capital School Lease Liability — Principal Costs (6512)
 - b. Capital School Lease Liability – Interest Costs (6522)
 - c. Interest on Debt Costs (6523)
- Audit services for state-funded Grants

Attachments

There are two types of attachments that may be required to be submitted with your Qualtrics application:

Required Program-Related Attachments

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Required Program-Related Attachments, for a general description of program-related documents that can be required as attachments to the application.

The applicant must submit all program-related attachments for the following questions in the Program Requirements section of the ECHS grant application:

1. In 300 words or fewer, detail how your campus arrived at the decision to apply for this grant. Include at least one key motivation, one challenge, and one opportunity explored during discussions with stakeholders such as school board members, faculty/staff, and parents/students that is specific to your community. Highlight any data or research that influenced the decision
2. Upload the Letter of Support from the IHE partner.
3. Upload the course of study/crosswalk that the school is planning to offer. In 300 words or fewer, describe how the postsecondary credentials earned by students meet the local economic needs in the ECHS academic plan.
4. In 300 words or fewer, describe how the campus and district intend to work with and secure the partnership with an IHE and align the needs of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that addresses topics such as but not limited to: funding, instructional materials, transportation costs, joint professional development, and data sharing, and access to student data.
5. In 300 words or fewer, please outline at least three key strategies for the future recruitment and enrollment process that meet the ECHS open enrollment requirements for your district and student population.
6. Provide examples of how the future campus plans to offer a system of academic supports to all students. List three activities and three brief descriptions that are specific to your campus and future student population.
7. After completing a successful second year of serving as a LASO 3.0 ECHS campus, the campus leader and school counselor are promoted to other positions outside of your district, and the district ECHS program budget is reduced. In 300 words or fewer, please describe the sustainability measures implemented at your campus beforehand to address and mitigate the challenges of leadership changes, staff turnover, and potential future funding fluctuations.

Reminder: Do not submit unsolicited attachments. Unsolicited attachments will not be reviewed.

Required Fiscal-Related Attachments

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Fiscal-Related Documentation Required to Be on File, for a general description of fiscal-related documents that can be required as attachments to the application.

No fiscal-related attachments are required for this Grant program.

Adding Attachments

The instructions in the following sections describe how to attach files to an eGrants application, if applicable.

General Instructions

The size of each attachment cannot exceed 10MB. If you have a larger file, use a different scanning setting or zip the file to make it take up less space.

The only supported browser is Google Chrome. If you are using another browser, please change to Google Chrome before attaching files.

Documents only need to be attached once. Do not attach duplicate documents when completing an amendment. Remove an existing attached document prior to attaching a new version.

Naming Attachments

Name the files you are going to attach with no spaces (for example, 501C3letter.doc or 5013C_letter.doc) and no special characters. Use a meaningful name that identifies the specific document.

Make sure that each attachment has a valid extension (.pdf, .doc, .rtf, .xls, .bmp, .txt, .docx, .xlsx).

Note that attachments with very long names may not be able to be uploaded. If you have difficulty, try renaming the file and starting over.

Scanning Documents

If a document must be scanned to create an electronic copy, use the following hints to ensure that the document size is as small as possible:

- Use an OCR or DPI setting of 200 DPI.
- Scanned files must be in PDF format.

Zippping Files

If your files are too large, add them to a zip file to save space (download a free version of [WinZip](#) and find instructions on creating zip files).

Attaching Files to an eGrants Application

1. Ensure that the document is saved on your computer, using the naming instructions above.
2. On the Grant application's Table of Contents page, select Attach File.
3. Select the appropriate radio button for a TEA Defined Attachment or an Optional Attachment.
4. Select the Browse button. A standard Windows browser appears. Find the file.

5. Select Attach.
6. Confirm the document title appears under Documents Submitted in This Version; refresh the page if necessary. If the attachment does not appear, you may have to rename your document with a shorter name and start over.
7. Repeat this process to attach all your documents.

LASO Scoring and Review

This section provides information on the scoring and review of LASO applications.

LASO Review and Funding Criteria

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Review Criteria*

Standard GRANT Review Criteria	Description	Maximum Points Available
Stakeholder-driven decision-making and sustainability (Program Application Questions 10 and 19)	Describe your campus's grant application decision, including motivations, challenges, stakeholder discussions, data support, and sustainability measures for leadership, staff turnover, and funding fluctuations.	15
ECHS partnership agreement and requirements (Program Application Questions 11 and 12)	Identify and confirm the accredited IHE partnering with the ECHS campus and upload the supporting letter from the IHE.	5
ECHS planned degrees, courses offered, and crosswalk (Program Application Questions 13 and 14)	Specify in detail the associate degree, certificates, and courses the future ECHS campus plans to offer, including a detailed study/crosswalk.	10
ECHS postsecondary credentials alignment and MOU partnership roles (Program Application Required Questions 15 and 16)	Explain how the postsecondary credentials in the ECHS plan address local economic needs and outline the campus and district's strategy for securing and aligning IHE partnerships.	10
Future recruitment strategies and support systems (Program Application Questions 17 and 18)	Outline key strategies for recruiting and supporting underserved and at-risk students, and providing academic support tailored to the campus and student needs.	10
Total Standard Review Points Possible		50

Priority Points

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Priorities for Funding.

All grant applications will be evaluated based on the following categories:

School Systems not currently participating in the CCRSM Network will receive 1 priority point.

School Systems classified by TEA as Rural will receive 1 priority point.

School Systems classified by TEA in the upper quartile of at-risk students will receive 1 priority point.

School Systems classified by TEA in the upper quartile of economically disadvantaged students will receive 1 priority point.

School Systems classified by TEA as a TEA Board of Managers* (BOM) district will receive 1 priority point.

Campuses classified by TEA with an enrollment size under 10,000 students will receive 2 priority points.

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

Applicants must receive 70% of the points available through the standard and specific grant review criteria before priority points are awarded. Any priorities for funding (priority points) defined for the program will be listed in the Program Guidelines.

Priorities for Funding: If used for the grant, priority points are assigned by the TEA program staff

If School Systems' funding requests exceed the amount available for this grant, oral interviews may be used. If used, applicants who receive 70% of the total points available through the sum of the narrative questions and priority point criteria will be invited to attend an oral interview, which will be conducted virtually. Prioritization is based on enrollment size, rural classification, at-risk and economically disadvantaged student populations, Board of Managers* (BOM) district, and participation in the CCRSM Network.

* All districts with a state appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings

Oral Interviews for Funding

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Oral Interviews for Funding*.

During the virtual oral interviews, applicants will have the opportunity to elaborate and be evaluated on their planned partnership with a Texas Institute of Higher Education (IHE), as well as answer any additional questions that the TEA may have to assess their readiness for this grant program. The applicant may reference any documents, including the Program Guidelines and FAQs. If School System funding requests exceed the amount available for this grant, oral interviews may be used according to the following process. If used, applicants who receive 70% of the total points available through the sum of the standard and specific grant review criteria will be invited to attend an oral interview, which will be conducted virtually.

If you are identified as a TEA Board of Managers* (BOM) district, you may be asked to attend an interview to determine readiness.

** All districts with a state appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings.*