

LASO Cycle 4 (2025-2026)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

**Preparing and Retaining Educators Program (PREP) Allotment:
Residency Preservice Program**

Program Guidelines

Authorized by HB2 Texas Education Code (TEC) §§21.902, 21.904, 48.157



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

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PREP Allotment: Preservice Residency Program Guidelines

Allotment Name	Preparing and Retaining Educators Program (PREP) Allotment: Preservice Residency Program
Application Due Date	December 3, 2025; 5:00 p.m. CT
Program Authority	HB2 Texas Education Code (TEC) §§21.902, 21.904, 48.157

Introduction

The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment aims to strengthen the quality of teacher recruitment, preparation, and mentorship leading to increased educator effectiveness and retention. The PREP Program Allotment provides funding for various partnerships and school systems may apply for funding for the PREP Residency Program, Grow Your Own Program, and the Mentor Program through this LASO 4 application. Through LASO 4 school systems may also apply for Texas Strategic Staffing Grant funding to support implementation and reach of the PREP Program Allotment. The 89th Texas Legislature established the PREP Program Allotment via House Bill 2, which was signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025.

The PREP Residency Preservice Program places paid teacher residents in classrooms led by experienced cooperating (host) teachers, allowing candidates to earn enhanced standard teaching certificates while gaining hands-on experience. This model strengthens instructional capacity, improves educator effectiveness, and increases student access to high-quality teaching. School systems participating in the PREP Residency Preservice Program must comply with statutory requirements outlined in Texas Education Code (TEC) §§21.902, 21.904, 48.157, which outline residency program standards and requirements and funding provisions.

Overview of the LASO Application Process

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

1. TEA publishes the LASO application and supporting documents on the [LASO 4 webpage](#). This will also include webinars that will cover key aspects of PREP and the PREP Residency Preservice Program.
2. Superintendents will receive a unique application link in an email on October 3, 2025.
3. Eligible school system applicants submit the allotment application via Qualtrics by the specified deadline in this document.
4. Allotment applications are reviewed for eligibility.
5. TEA announces preliminarily applicants selected for funding on the [LASO 4 webpage- Award Table](#) webpage.
6. Following notification of preliminary approval, applicants will be required to complete a confirmation of funding and submit additional requested documentation, including the partnership agreement(s) with the EPP(s). TEA will share dates and timelines for confirmation of funding in the preliminary approval notification.

Contact for Clarifying Information

The following TEA staff members should be contacted with questions:

Allotment Program Contact

Program manager name	Dr. Cherylynn Jody Moody
Program manager title	Director of Apprenticeship
Program manager email	TEAteacherresidency@tea.texas.gov

Additional Program Contact

Program manager name	Melissa Yoder
Program manager title	Division Director Educator Quality
Program manager email	TEAteacherresidency@tea.texas.gov

Allotment Funding

All eligible school systems may receive allotment.

Timeline

If a report due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the report will be due the following business day. All dates except the allotment 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	Allotment application available
October 8, 9, 2025	PREP Overview Webinar Schedule Wednesday, Oct 8, 2025 (12:30-1:30 pm CT)- Option 1 Thursday, Oct 9, 2025 (11:00-12:00 pm CT)- Option 2
October 15, 20, 2025	PREP Residency Program Webinar Schedule Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025 (11:00-12:00 pm CT)- Option 1 Monday, Oct 20, 2025 (2:00-3:00 pm CT)- Option 2
October 27, 2025, at 10:00-10:30 p.m.	Office Hours
October 26, 2025	FAQ deadline
November 3, 2025	FAQ Publishing The FAQs for this allotment program will be posted to the LASO 4 website no later than the date listed on the Allotment Timeline. Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at LASO@tea.texas.gov
December 3, 2025	Due date for the LASO Qualtrics application. The LASO 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.
December 4, 2025- January 30, 2026	Application review period
February 2, 2026	Anticipated award announcement

Allotment at a Glance

This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the Allotment program opportunity.

Authorizing Legislation

This allotment program is authorized by the House Bill 2 TEC §§21.902, 21.904, 48.157.

Where to Submit the Allotment Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 3, 2025. Please see the [LASO 4 website](#) for more information.

Purpose of Program

The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment aims to strengthen the quality of teacher recruitment, preparation, and mentorship, leading to increased educator effectiveness and retention. The PREP Program Allotment provides funding for various partnerships and school systems may apply for funding for the PREP Residency Preservice Program, Grow Your Own Program, and the Mentor Program through this LASO IV Application. Through this allotment, school systems may also apply for Strategic Staffing funding to support the implementation and reach of the PREP Program Allotment. The 89th Texas Legislature established the PREP Program Allotment via House Bill 2, which was signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025.

The PREP Residency Preservice Program empowers school systems to play a central role in cultivating a pipeline of well-prepared, highly qualified teachers by embedding paid preservice teacher residency candidates directly into classrooms of highly qualified host teachers. Through close collaboration with educator preparation programs, participating school systems support teacher residents in earning an enhanced standard teaching certificate while gaining hands-on experience in school systems schools. By expanding the reach and effectiveness of residency models, the PREP Residency Preservice Program enhances instructional capacity and increases student access to skilled educators—ultimately advancing educational outcomes.

Eligible Applicants

School systems, which include districts and charter schools as defined below, are eligible to apply for the PREP Preservice Residency Program.

For the purposes of these program guidelines, a charter school is defined as a Texas public school that meets one of the following criteria:

- is operated by a charter holder under an open-enrollment charter granted either by the State Board of Education or commissioner of education pursuant to Texas Education Code (TEC), §12.101, identified with its own county district number;
- has a charter granted under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C*
- has a charter granted under TEC, §11.157(b).

Each eligible applicant is subject to PREP Program Allotment funding caps described in each of the program's guidelines.

*SB 1882 Operating Partners (OP) are eligible applicants and subject to the funding caps described in each of the PREP Program's guidelines in the following sections. However, PREP Allotment funding will flow to the partner districts in which the participating 1882 campuses are located. The SB 1882 OP must have a written agreement with the partner district to document how allotment funds generated through the partnership will be spent.

**Note: Given Texas Education Code, §21.901(a) requires partnerships to "provide preservice practice opportunities in a prekindergarten through grade 12 classroom for teacher candidates," charters with a charter granted under TEC, §12.256, and Human Resources Code, §221.002 are ineligible applicants for the PREP Preservice Residency Program.

Any school system, which includes open-enrollment charter schools, and SB 1882 Operating Partners who read and agree to the requirements in relevant sections of the Texas Education and Texas Administrative codes cited in these guidelines is eligible for the PREP Allotment.-

The eligible applicants are:

- School systems who are partnered with an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) approved by the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) to offer the teacher residency route. School systems must have formal written partnership agreement(s) with the EPP(s).
- To be eligible for the PREP Program Allotment, applicants must read and agree to program-specific assurances in addition to relevant sections of the Texas Education Code (TEC) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC):
 - TEC §21.902 (PREP Preservice Program)
 - TEC §21.904 (PREP Residency Preservice Program)
 - TEC §48.157 (PREP Allotment)
 - TAC sections related to the PREP Residency Pre-service Program, which will be posted to the Texas Register for public comment during the 2025-26 school year and become effective prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year. TEA anticipates sharing specific dates related to rulemaking in fall 2025.

Education Service Centers (ESCs) are not eligible to apply

Allotment Funding

All school systems that meet eligibility requirements shall receive between \$24,000 and \$39,500 for each resident candidate with a cap of up to 40 residents annually. A base allotment and multiplier rate is assigned to each district based on the number of residents, rural/high need school system (district) factors, and number of SPED and bilingual residents. This will determine the SY 26-27 total funding allocation. See the program description for more details on funding ranges.

Selection of Applicants for Funding

All eligible applicants that meet eligibility requirements and agree to the assurances will be preliminarily approved to be funded per the funding formula and parameters in TEC §48.157 (PREP Allotment) and TEC §21.904 (PREP Residency Preservice Program). Following notification of preliminary approval, applicants will be required to complete a confirmation of funding and submit additional requested documentation, including the partnership agreement(s) with the EPP(s). TEA will share dates and timelines for confirmation of funding in the preliminary approval notification.

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

- Texas Education Code (TEC) §21.904 (PREP Residency Preservice Program) requires school systems to pay residents at least \$20,000 per school year. The allotment provides for, at a minimum, \$10,000 of the required compensation. Depending on additional allotment funding received, school systems must plan to contribute up to \$10,000 per residency candidate to meet the compensation requirements.

Allotment 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)

TEA Application Required Responses

Applicants must provide the following information in the application:

1. How many teacher residents do you anticipate participating during SY 26-27? Reference the Program Guidelines for information regarding caps on resident numbers.
 - a. Estimated number of teacher residents: ____

2. Please enter contact information for the school systems representative appointed as the primary point of contact for all PREP Preservice Residency program-related activities.
 - a. Name: _____
 - b. Email Address: _____
 - c. Phone: _____
 - d. Title: _____
3. Please enter contact information for an additional point of contact for all PREP Preservice Residency program-related activities.
 - a. Name: _____
 - b. Email Address: _____
 - c. Phone: _____
 - d. Title: _____
4. Who is/are the school system's EPP partner(s) with an SBEC-approved [Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route Educator Preparation Program](#) as per TEC §§21.902, 21.904? [Matched District Partnerships.xlsx](#)
5. Please provide contact information for the Educator Preparation Program point of contact for the PREP Residency program (name, title, email)
 - a. Name: _____
 - b. Email Address: _____
 - c. Phone: _____
 - d. Title: _____
6. The applicant must agree to train its resident cooperating (host) teachers via the Texas Mentorship Training.

Role	Role Definition	Texas Mentorship Training Requirements
Resident Cooperating (Host) Teacher	For the PREP Preservice Residency Program, statute defines a cooperating teacher as a classroom teacher who is a school system employee; has at least three full school years of teaching experience with a superior record of assisting students in achieving improvement in student performance; and is paired with one or more teacher candidates (new TEC §21.902).	Summer 2026, Fall 2026, Winter 2026-27 and Spring 2027 (24-30 total hours)

	TEA anticipates proposing rule to further defining cooperating teachers for the purpose of PREP Preservice Residency Program by adopting the definition of host teacher currently in TAC §228.95.	
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School systems must self-report the estimated number of resident cooperating (host) teachers that would attend training for SY 2026-27.

- a. How many cooperating (host) teachers do you estimate will attend the training? This should correlate to the anticipated number of residents you will have in school year 2026-27.

Statutory and Program-Specific Assurances

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

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 Allotment funds administered by TEA (i.e., an Allotment recipient) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding Allotment 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, awardee represents and warrants that: 1. All conduct under this award shall be administered and performed in a neutral manner without regard to race of persons; 2. awardee shall not, in the specific performance of this award, elevate one individual person over another, or advantage any one person over another, due to race; 3. awardee shall not, in the specific performance of this award, employ practices or engage in any advancement of the programs known as DEI, critical race theory, affirmative action, or other similar, divisive agendas; 4. Awardee's staff, agents, contractors, and subcontractors that are selected and employed in the specific performance of this award shall be selected and employed solely on merit and the ability to perform; and 5. awardee shall

ensure that any awardees, contractors and their subcontractors participating in the specific performance of this award represent and warrant to the provisions of this clause.

7. Biological Sex and No Preferred Pronouns: awardee represents and warrants that it shall ensure that all actions in specific performance of this award shall comply with federal and state law and reflect that there are only two sexes. Awardee's employees, officers, representatives, contractors, subcontractors, and agents shall not, in performance of this award, present, direct, request, or suggest the use of preferred personal pronouns in professional correspondence or presentations.
8. The school systems will maintain current contact information in AskTED to ensure timely communication.

In addition to meeting the PREP Allotment statutory assurances, school systems must agree to meet the PREP Residency Preservice Program assurances:

9. Read and abide by Texas Education Code (TEC) [§21.904](#) (PREP Residency Preservice Program); TEC [§§21.902, 48.157](#).
10. Read and abide by Texas Administrative Code (TAC) related to the PREP Preservice Residency Program, which will be posted in the Texas Register for public comment during the 2025-26 school year and become effective prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year. Note: TEA anticipates sharing specific dates related to rulemaking in Fall 2025.
11. Appoint a school system and EPP representative to engage in all required PREP Allotment and PREP Preservice Residency Communications.
12. Ensure all cooperating teachers (host teachers) complete the Texas Mentorship Training as the agency-adopted mentorship training.
13. Have a written agreement with an educator preparation program for PREP Residency Preservice program implementation by the 2026-2027 school year.

For more details regarding Texas Education Code (TEC) §21.904 (PREP Residency Preservice Program) and TEC §§21.902, 48.157 see: [RESIDENCY LASO 4 Pop Out.docx](#)

Program Elements

Description of Program

The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment aims to strengthen the quality of teacher recruitment, preparation, and mentorship, leading to increased educator effectiveness and retention. The PREP Program Allotment provides funding for various partnerships and school systems may apply for funding for the PREP Residency Preservice Program, Grow Your Own Program, and the Mentor Program through this LASO IV Allotment. Through this allotment, school systems may also apply for Strategic Staffing funding to support implementation and reach of the PREP Program Allotment. The 89th Texas Legislature established the PREP Program Allotment via House Bill 2, which was signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025.

The PREP Residency Preservice Program empowers school systems to play a central role in cultivating a pipeline of well-prepared, highly qualified teachers by embedding paid preservice residents directly into the

classroom. Through close collaboration with the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)-approved residency educator preparation programs, participating school systems support teacher residency candidates to earn an enhanced standard teaching certificate while gaining hands-on experience in co-teaching alongside an assigned cooperating (host) teacher. By expanding the reach and effectiveness of residency models, the PREP Residency Preservice Program enhances instructional capacity and increases student access to skilled educators—ultimately advancing educational outcomes.

PREP Preservice Residency Program Components

For the PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment, school systems must partner with an EPP that has been approved by the SBEC to offer the Teacher Residency Preparation Route. This partnership should include shared governance, clear roles, and mutual accountability for candidate development and support as evidenced by a written agreement. This collaboration is to ensure residents receive high-quality, practice-based preparation. See the [Teacher Residencies in Texas | Texas Education Agency](#) for more information about teacher residencies and current list of EPP partners who offer the SBEC-approved Residency Program.

Resident placements are designed to embed the candidate in a school for the purpose of extensive practice under the supervision of a highly qualified and effective cooperating (host) teacher. Placements must occur in in-person, PreK–12 settings. Each candidate must be assigned to a cooperating (host) teacher who meets SBEC qualifications and is trained to mentor and support the resident. The residency must span a full academic year, including the first and last instructional days, and total at least 750 hours of clinical experience (with a minimum of 21 hours per week). The resident is required to be hired as an at-will employee of the school system. Residency candidates must engage in co-teaching and lead instruction for a minimum of 400 hours. School systems must facilitate opportunities for residents to gradually assume greater instructional responsibilities, aligned with structured performance benchmarks and gates established by the EPP.

Overview of Funding

The PREP Residency Preservice Program includes funding that flows directly to school systems and to EPP partners in support of a sustainably funded, paid teacher residency program. For each individual candidate, the partnership may receive **between \$24,000 and \$39,500 per resident**. School system applicants may apply to fund **up to 40 residents annually at this rate**. If the total number of residents exceeds 40, partnerships are eligible for funding of up to 80 additional residents at the traditional program funding level (\$10,000–\$21,500).

The key funding requirements in the allotment as described in TEC §48.157(b), are as follows:

1. **Provide residency candidates with \$20,000 minimum pay, with at least \$10,000 from the allotment:** The allotment directly funds \$10,000. Depending on the total per candidate allotment received, the school system may need to provide additional funding, up to \$10,000 per candidate, to meet the \$20,000 salary requirement.
2. **Provide the cooperating (host) teacher with a \$2,000 minimum stipend:** The allotment directly funds this entire minimum stipend.

The visual below describes four discrete sets of funding that may be allocated to the partnership, timing of allocations, and conditions for receipt of allocations. Apart from the two funding requirements above, all other funding has flexibility to support effective program implementation. Please review the range of funding a

school system and their EPP partner may anticipate for each resident throughout preparation and first year of employment.

PREP Residency Pre-service Partnership Program Funding Full-year Residency>Enhanced Standard			
Funding Categories	Funding Received at the Onset of the Candidate's Preparation	Funding upon Candidate Completion of Certification	Funding upon Candidate Certification and Completion of First Year of Teaching
School System Funding: Minimum for Candidate Pay	\$10K full year residency <i>NOTE: Minimum pay for residents must be \$20K. Dependent upon total allotment funding. The School System must contribute up to \$10K to fully fund the minimum payment.</i>		
School System Funding: Minimum for Cooperating (Host) Teacher Stipend	\$2K		
School System Funding: Discretionary (usable for EPP, candidate pay, cooperating support, or any admin purpose)		\$2K +\$0-\$12K as determined by the rural/high needs multiplier [48.157(c)] +\$2k for SPED or Bilingual [48.157(d)]	
EPP Funding: candidate tuition offset, candidate coaching, and admin costs			\$10K +\$1.5K for candidate completion of reading and/or math academies delivered through EPP coursework
Total per candidate	\$12K to School System	\$2k-\$16k to School System	\$10-\$11.5k to EPP
Total Range of Funding	\$24,000-39,500 per candidate up to 40 candidates		

As noted in the funding overview visual, partnerships are eligible for a range in funding per resident based on resident campus placement and certification area, specifically the campus' rural/high needs multiplier [TEC §48.157(d)] and the resident's ability to generate an additional \$2,000 if certifying in a Special Education or Bilingual area [TEC §48.157(c)].

Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to collect and report data requested by TEA annually. Requested data will be used to evaluate a partnership's implementation of program requirements described in TEC §21.904 and to measure program outcomes when appropriate. Data collected from participating partnerships following the 2026-2027 implementation year will be report-only and non-evaluative. Partnerships will be expected to address any implementation needs noted in the annual reporting cycle. PREP Program standards, goals and review processes will be included in Texas Administrative Code. Proposed Texas Administrative Code will post with the Texas Register for public comment during the 2025-26 school year and become effective prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year.

Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

- A school system must comply with all spending requirements described in TEC §21.904(c) and TEC §48.157.
- A school system shall use money received to provide pay for teacher resident candidates in an amount of at least \$10,000 (TEC §21.904 (c)). In addition to the \$10,000 that must be funded out of the allotment, the school system must at minimum fund an additional \$10,000 to each candidate, either from the allotment or other local sources (TEC §21.904 (c)).
- A school system shall use money received to provide stipends for cooperating teachers in an amount of at least \$2,000 (TEC §21.904 (c)).
- The remaining funds allotted to the school system or EPP shall be used in a discretionary manner to support the implementation of the residency program. EPPs operated within an IHE must spend no less than 85% of the funds on the educator preparation program.