

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 P-TECH initiative:

Section A: Program Overview

What is the purpose of the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) initiative?

- The Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program enables school districts to establish a P-TECH campus within their system. This program helps districts implement models that allow underserved and at-risk students to earn a high school diploma, industry-based certifications (IBCs), and/or an associate degree—concurrently and at no cost to the student. The P-TECH must maintain a partnership with an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide dual-credit opportunities and a partnership with a business or industry partner to offer work-based learning experiences for students in grades 9–12.

Must agreements/MOUs with IHE's be signed and approved as part of the December 3rd submission?

- It is not required as a part of the LASO application. After joining the CCRSM, the MOU must be reviewed and signed as a part of the designation process.

What are the main differences between P-TECH and Early College High Schools?

- P-TECH programs are an open-enrollment program that focus on serving underserved and at-risk students. The program provides students with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and industry-based certifications and/or an associate degree by the sixth year of high school at no cost to the student. Each P-TECH campus must partner with at least one primary business or industry organization to provide work-based learning experiences for students in grades 9–12.
ECHS programs allow districts to create an Early College High School campus focused on serving underserved and at-risk students. The program provides students with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours or an associate degree. ECHS campuses offer targeted supports through rigorous instruction and accelerated postsecondary courses, along with academic and wraparound services to help students succeed in college-level coursework at no cost to the student.
- For more information, please visit the CCRSM website at <https://texascrrsm.org/>

If the school system received the 2021-2023 P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grant are they ineligible for the LASO Cycle 4 P-TECH Grant?

- From the Program Guidelines:
 - 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
 - All current P-TECH planning, provisional, or designated campuses are not eligible to apply
 - All recipients of previous P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grants are not eligible to apply
 - All recipients of a previous LASO P-TECH 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

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

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

What happens if they change STAAR EOC?

- If changes are made to STAAR EOC, CCRSM staff will assess the impact, collaborate with leadership and stakeholders, and determine whether adjustments to program requirements are necessary to maintain consistent support and rigor for CCRSM programs and students.

How is HB 8 going to affect OBMs?

- CCRSM staff will review HB 8, collaborate with leadership and stakeholders, and determine whether adjustments to program requirements—including Outcomes-Based Measures (OBMs)—are needed to ensure continued support and rigor for CCRSM programs and students.

Will any of the CCRSMs OBMs be considered as TEA moves to the new proposed CCMR buckets?

- The CCRSM staff will evaluate potential “CCMR bucket” changes, coordinate with leadership and stakeholders, and adjust all program requirements as needed to continue to support and challenge CCRSM programs and students similarly.

I've never been a part of P-TECH, but we do have a college and career dual enrollment program. Can we still apply?

- Yes. Please visit this site for more information: <https://texascrrsm.org/get-involved/program-application/>

Can I skip the planning year if I already have a college and career dual enrollment program?

- No, completion of a planning year is a required step for all CCRSM programs.

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).
- Field trips may be funded under the Grant program. Only the following types of field trips may be allowable: •Same day field trips for P-TECH 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 may be funded under the Grant program. 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 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 P-TECH/CCRSM travel
- An advisory council may be funded under the Grant program.
 - Only the following types of advisory council costs may be allowable:
 - Convening of advisory council/leadership team, including travel.

- Supplies and materials for an advisory council, excluding food, beverages, and snacks

Section D: Implementation and Monitoring

What are the key program commitments?

- P-TECH Model Planning and Implementation: Districts will engage in 12-18 months of P-TECH model planning and implementing design elements and requirements aligned to the P-TECH Blueprint.
- Crosswalks: Together, the District and IHE develop course equivalent crosswalks which lead to Level I and Level II certificates, associate degrees, or completion of the Texas Core Curriculum.
- Personalized Learning Environment: The P-TECH shall collaborate with its 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 career goals.
- CTE Program of Study: P-TECH campuses shall provide a TEA CTE program(s) of study for students in grades 9-12 to combine high school and postsecondary courses that lead to an approved industry-based certification(s).
- Postsecondary Training: P-TECH campuses must have identified an accredited higher education institution(s) for postsecondary opportunities.
- Industry Partnership: P-TECH campuses must have identified a local industry partner(s) who can provide work-based education at all grade levels.

How will performance be evaluated?

- The TEA designed the designation process for P-TECH under the authority of Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.908(b) (2019) and Title 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1091 (effective 2007). P-TECH programs are required to adopt the design elements in each benchmark and meet OBMs to receive the Texas Education Agency (TEA) P-TECH designation after completing five years of serving students. Designation is the process by which the TEA determines whether a school can fully implement the design elements of each benchmark and meet the OBMs. Designation, through the Program Application Cycle (PAC), is an annual requirement for all P-TECH programs.

Section E: Support and Resources

Where can I find additional resources or training?

- <https://texasccrsm.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 F: Contact Information

Who should I contact for questions?

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