

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.

LASO Cycle 4 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)- VHPA 1

 Frequently Asked Questions 1

 General Questions and Resources 2

 Section A: Program Overview 2

 Section B: Application and Submission 5

 Section C: Funding and Compliance 6

 Section D: Implementation and Monitoring 6

 Section E: Support and Resources 7

 Section F: Contact Information 7

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 Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) initiative:

Section A: Program Overview

1. What is the purpose of the Virtual and Hybrid Accelerator Program initiative?

- The Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) enables school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to design and launch high-quality virtual and hybrid programs or campuses, as defined under Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 30B.

2. What is the process for online courses to be approved or certified by TEA?

- School systems are responsible for certifying that each course satisfies the requirements specified in TEC §30B.051. In addition, the school system must submit a course list form to TEA, which includes assurances confirming both certification and compliance with all relevant provisions of SB 569 regarding virtual and hybrid instruction.

3. What is the authorization process for a virtual school?

- There will be an application and an interview process. Details about the authorization process will be provided in upcoming communications from the agency.

4. If you start a program and it grows to the point where you want to pursue campus authorization, is that possible?

- A school system can apply for authorization of a campus.

5. How would we know if our district has previously been a part of VHPA?

- We can verify that for you if you reach out to the virtual.hybrid@tea.texas.gov

6. Just want to verify that Subchapter G charters are eligible for this grant opportunity?

- No. Subchapter G charters are not eligible for this grant.

7. Is this grant available for existing virtual campuses, or is it only intended for those beginning operations, as year one focuses on planning?

- The grant is not intended for existing virtual campuses. The Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) enables school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to design and launch high-quality virtual and hybrid programs or campuses, as defined under Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 30B. Please see [program guidelines](#) for more details.

8. For vendor partnerships, what are the requirements?

- VHPA is currently procuring Technical Assistance Providers. School systems will be partnered with a provider through the VHPA program. The evaluation criteria VHPA will use to procure the provider includes:
 - Experience with supporting school systems launch virtual and hybrid programs or campuses
 - Capacity of project leads to complete required support activities and deliverables for the program
 - Track record of success in terms of operational and academic outcomes in other initiatives like VHPA

9. How will ADA be calculated?

- To see attendance and funding information for 2025-2026 school year, please see the [TAA on SB 569](#). Policies for subsequent years will be governed by the rules established under TEC., §30B.

10. Can we operate as a virtual school next semester? Does that need board approval?

- School systems are permitted to offer a full-time virtual or hybrid program under Texas Education Code, Chapter 30B without TEA authorization, provided that enrollment in these programs constitutes less than 50 percent of the total student enrollment at the campus. A district-or charter school-approved instructional plan and clearly defined policies to inform implementation are recommended for effective program operation. School systems should develop or update local policies to support instructional delivery, attendance tracking, and funding compliance.
- To establish a new virtual or hybrid campus, school systems must complete an authorization process prior to opening. Details about the authorization process will be provided in upcoming communications from the agency.

11. Can the district launch a full-time hybrid program without approval?

- Yes, the district may launch a full-time hybrid program without approval

12. Our district offers a credit recovery program to assist high school level students meet graduation requirements. Students from 2 different high schools are considered and they complete the work on-site during day and evenings. We want to expand to make it hybrid options so students can also work on credit recovery from home. Is this type of credit recovery program something that the VHPA grant would be able to support?

- The VHPA grant will support school systems in developing high-quality virtual and hybrid programs. The program provides school systems with support, guidance, and structure to design and implement virtual and hybrid programs to meet the needs of their students. While credit recovery programs may be considered, appropriateness depends on how the proposed model aligns with the grant's objectives and requirements.

13. If we already have an alternative ed campus, which option would be best for us to explore?

- It's the school system's choice based on the unique context. If you have specific questions, please reach out to virtual.hybrid@tea.texas.gov.

14. Is there a list of districts by region that have already implemented the virtual/hybrid model?

- TEA does not maintain a list of Virtual or Hybrid programs offered under Texas Education Code, Chapter 30B. However, there is a list of full-time online schools operating through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN). This list includes campuses that participate in the TXVSN or those that have received a waiver to operate such campuses.

To view the list of these schools, please visit the [TXVSN online school web page](#).

15. Our district is already beginning to engage in planning for a full-time virtual campus. If awarded a VHPA grant, could the current year (2025-26) be our planning year with the launch of the virtual campus beginning in August 2026?

- No. The VHPA grant is a two-year program designed to help school systems develop and implement high-quality virtual and hybrid campuses. Year 1 (2026–2027) focuses on engagement, planning, and required deliverables, which satisfy the planning year requirement for campus authorization. A full-time virtual campus may begin operation in the 2027–2028 school year upon meeting these requirements and receiving authorization.

- School systems planning to launch in August 2026 can complete a planning year without VHPA but must apply for campus authorization and demonstrate robust planning documentation as part of that process. TEA expects to share details of the application process and required documentation in December 2025 (tentative). For school systems without a comprehensive plan or process, VHPA serves as a suitable option. It provides a well-structured framework accompanied by guidance and resources, enabling school systems to develop and implement high-quality virtual and hybrid models that address student needs.

16. Must a district create its own content, or can it partner with an established vendor?

- It is up to the district on which method to use for the content.

17. For obtaining formal approval from the governing board, what does "prior to apply for authorization" mean? Do you mean getting approval before we make the December LASO submission?

- This means getting approval from the board before you apply for authorization for the campus. This is not required prior to applying for LASO.

18. Can a district apply as program and campus?

- For VHPA, you can choose one. If you are undecided, it will be defaulted to the program category

19. Can you define "authorization for the campus"?

- The school system would apply through an application process with TEA to operate a campus.

Section B: Application and Submission

1. How do I get a link to the application?

- TEA emailed unique application links to school system superintendents on October 3 (if needed, LEAs can complete a [Request for Application Link Form](#) to receive a new link).

A PDF of the application is posted on the [LASO Cycle 4 website](#); however, school systems must submit the application through Qualtrics using the unique application link.

2. When is the deadline to apply?

- LASO 4 applications are due on December 3, 2025, by 5:00 p.m., Central Time.

Section C: Funding and Compliance

1. When will I receive my NOGA?

- NOGAs are issued in order received and anticipated to be issued within 60 days of successful eGrants submission of acceptance and budget workbook in eGrants.

2. What are the allowable uses of funds?

- Allowable uses of funds can be found on page 21 of Program Guidelines: [Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator \(VHPA\) Program Guidelines](#)

Section D: Implementation and Monitoring

1. What are the key program commitments?

- Establish a VHPA team including a Senior Project Sponsor and a Project Lead; ensure the Project Lead has 16 hours of weekly release time
- Actively participate in all programming offered by TEA assigned technical assistance providers including required workshops, coaching calls, and planning sessions, and complete all related deliverables and milestones within TEA timelines.
- Gather input from stakeholders and collect relevant data to define a clear vision and instructional design aligned to research-based best practices for virtual and hybrid models.
- Provide evidence of community interest and develop a comprehensive launch plan covering academics, staffing, technology, family engagement, and student support.
- Complete all deliverables and engage in three improvement cycles to review data and plan next steps for continuous program improvement.
- Launch a full-time virtual or hybrid program or apply for campus authorization to operate a campus in SY27–28.
- If partnering with a vendor, submit a provider selection plan, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and monitoring systems to ensure flexibility and accountability.

For full details, see [VHPA Program Guidelines](#) (pages 14–19)

2. How will performance be evaluated?

- Quality and timely completion of all required deliverables and milestones, including the comprehensive program or campus plan.
- Engage in three improvement cycles using data to guide program development and share outcomes on engagement, mastery, and instructional quality.
- Successful launch a full-time virtual or hybrid program or apply for campus authorization to operate a campus in SY27–28.

- Compliance with vendor oversight requirements, including submission of a provider selection plan, MOUs, cost analysis, and monitoring systems if a third-party provider is used.

For full details, see **Performance and Evaluation Measures** in the [VHPA Program Guidelines](#) (pages 20–21)

Section E: Support and Resources

1. Where can I find additional resources or training?

- TEA LASO 4 webpage: [LASO Cycle 4 | Texas Education Agency](#)

2. What support can I expect from an Approved Provider?

- Cohort-based workshops and coaching calls for program design and implementation.
- Guidance on instructional design, staff professional development, and creation of high-quality virtual and hybrid courses.
- Comprehensive support for academic and operational planning, technology strategy, family engagement, and overall program readiness.

Section F: Contact Information

1. Who should I contact for questions?

- For specific questions, please email virtual.hybrid@tea.texas.gov.