

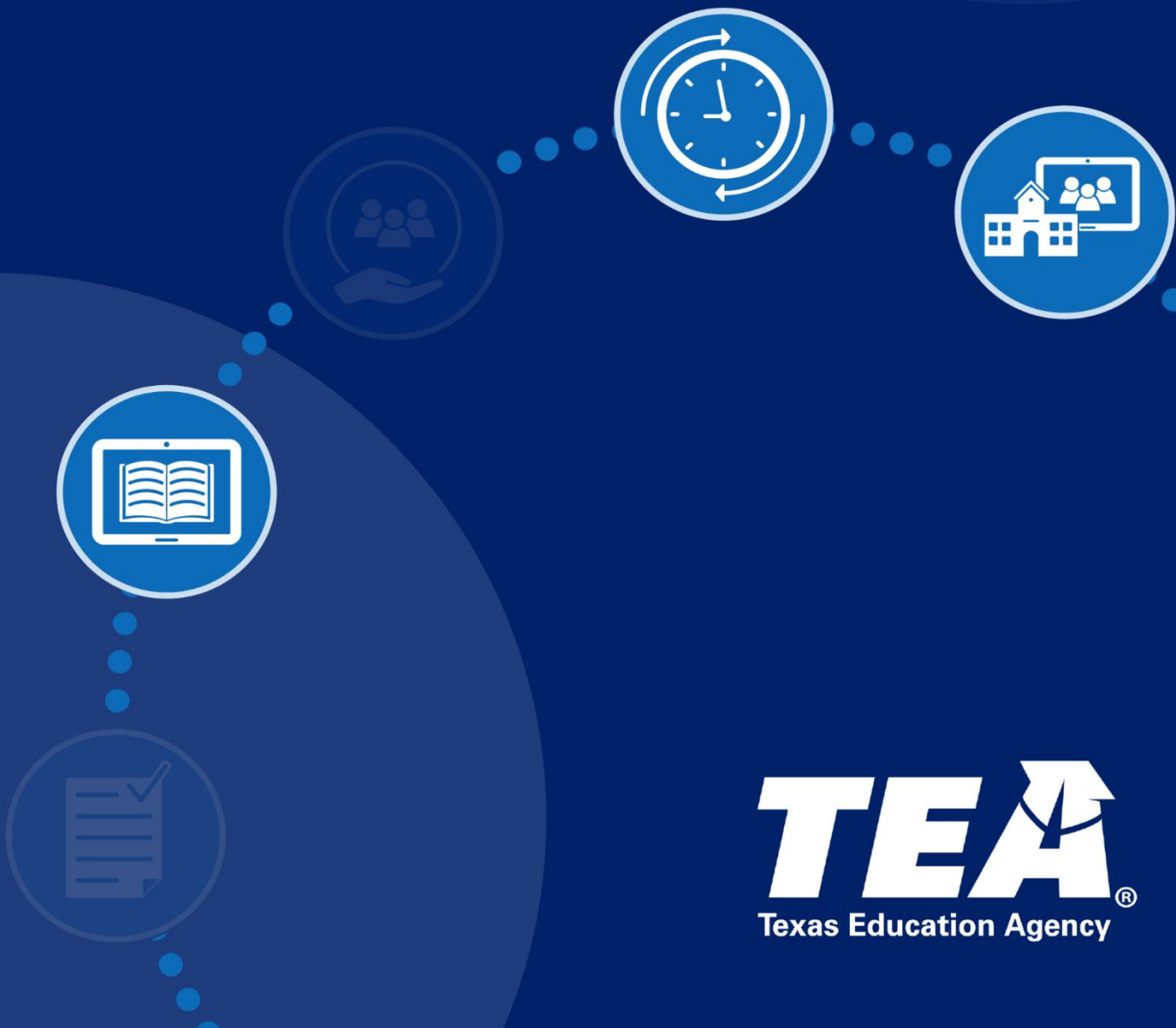
# Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) 2023-2024

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Strong Foundations Implementation

Program Guidelines

Updated January 29, 2024



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## Grant Program Guidelines

<b>Grant Name as it will appear on the TEA Grant Opportunities Page</b>	Strong Foundations Implementation
<b>Application Due Date</b>	5:00 p.m. Central Time, December 7, 2023
<b>Program Authority</b>	<b>Updated:</b> Article III, Rider 76, 88th Texas Legislature and General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX Section 18.78, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.

## Introduction

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), as the pass-through entity<sup>1</sup>, is the grantee<sup>2</sup> from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and TEA awards subgrants to non-federal entities<sup>3</sup> such as local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, open-enrollment 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 subgrantees<sup>4</sup>. 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 document MUST be used in conjunction with the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) and the specific program instructions. The Standard Application consists of all forms to be completed in order for the applicant to be eligible for funding.

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 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.**

<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> 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)

<sup>3</sup> 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)

<sup>4</sup> 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 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 grant application and supporting documents on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) webpage.
2. Eligible applicants submit grant application via Qualtrics to TEA by the specified deadline on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) webpage.
3. Grant applications are reviewed and scored. Note: Applicants may be required to attend an oral interview or respond to additional questions regarding their application.
4. TEA announces applicants selected for funding on the TEA [Grants Awarded Data](#) webpage.
5. **Awarded applicants will be required to submit an eGrants application for funding.**
6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the eGrants application.
7. The Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) will be issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

## 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	\$111,200,000
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	\$111,200,000

## Applicant Assistance

The following types of assistance are available to applicants for this grant program.

### Contact for Clarifying Information

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

The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Program manager name	Kristi Michaels
Program manager title	Director of HQIM Implementation
Program manager email	<a href="mailto:StrongFoundations@tea.texas.gov">StrongFoundations@tea.texas.gov</a>
Program manager phone	(512) 463-9824

## Errata Notices

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

DATE	EVENT
October 18, 2023; 1:00-2:00 p.m.	General Webinar schedule
October 19, 2023; 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Webinar registration link can be found on the <a href="#">LASO website</a>
October 23, 2023	Grant application available
October 30, 2023; 10:00-11:00 a.m.	Program Specific Webinar schedule
October 31, 2023; 3:00-4:00 p.m.	Webinar registration link can be found on the <a href="#">LASO website</a>
November 10, 2023	FAQ deadline
November 17, 2023	FAQ Publishing The FAQs for this grant program will be posted to the <a href="#">TEA Grant Opportunities</a> and <a href="#">LASO website</a> site no later than the date listed on the Grant Timeline. Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at <a href="mailto:LASO@tea.texas.gov">LASO@tea.texas.gov</a>
December 7, 2023	Due date for the application. The 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 23, 2023. Please see the <a href="#">LASO website</a> for more information. <i>See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a>, <b>Application Due Date and Time</b></i>
January 2, 2024-January 25, 2024	Application review period, including interviews if necessary. <i>See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a>, <b>Review Process</b></i>
February 8, 2024	Anticipated award announcement
March 1, 2024	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) <i>See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a>, <b>Grant Period</b></i>
June 1, 2025	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding)
August 31, 2025	Ending date of grant (if selected for funding) <i>See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a>, <b>Grant Period</b></i>

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

## Grant at a Glance

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This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the grant program.

### Authorizing Legislation

**Updated:** This grant is authorized by the Article III, Rider 76, 88th Texas Legislature and General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article IX Section 18.78, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.

### Where to Submit the Grant Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 23, 2023. Please see the [LASO website](#) for more information.

### Purpose of Program

Strong Foundations Implementation provides supports to LEAs to implement high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) in school year 2024-25, including technical assistance for LEAs and professional learning for teachers, instructional coaches, and school and district leaders on effectively implementing HQIM.

### Eligible Applicants

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *Eligibility To Apply*

Eligible applicants are LEAs implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (K-5 OER RLA COVID Emergency Release V3, currently called Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program/Amplify Texas Lectoescritura en Español) and/or K-5 Math (K-5 OER Math COVID Emergency Release V2, currently called Eureka Math TEKS Edition) and/or 6-12 Math (6-12 OR Math COVID Emergency Release V2, currently called Carnegie Learning 6-12 Texas Math Solution).

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

### Shared Services Arrangement

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Shared Services Arrangements.

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

## Application Attachments

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This section describes the required attachments that must be included with the application.

### Required Attachments

See the following section of the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#): *Required Program-Related Attachments*

There are no program related attachments for this program.

## Application Requirements and Assurances

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This section describes the types of requirements that applicants must assure adherence to in order to be eligible to be considered for funding:

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

### Statutory Requirements

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

Per TEC §22.0834, 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*. Does not apply to this grant program.

### TEA Program Requirements

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

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements.

- LEA agrees to meet the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#).
- LEA agree to meet the grant specific requirements to apply.

### Program-Specific Assurances

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

The program-specific assurances are listed on the application. The following assurances apply to this grant program. To meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee must comply with these assurances.

LEAs will commit to:



1. Approval by Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
2. Approval of the board of the trustees of the district to use the instructional materials.
3. Evidence showing classroom teachers support the use of the instructional materials.
4. Contracting with a provider from the state approved vendor list.
5. Appointment of initiative lead as the primary point of contact and submission of at least 1 additional point of contact.
6. Attendance and engagement by the initiative lead at periodic check-ins.
7. Participation of at least 1 school leader per participating campus.
8. Participation of at least 1 coach per product (coaches may include instructional coaches, administrators, leaders, or other individuals directly supporting teachers).
9. Submission of participant registration information by deadlines.
10. Following the year-long scope and sequence for each product.
11. Meeting the minimum number of instructional minutes for each product.
12. Using the curriculum-embedded assessments for each product.
13. Ensuring participants are able to attend all required professional learning.
14. Ensuring teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols.
15. Ensuring digital access and rostering (if applicable).
16. Ensuring print access.
17. Completion of a required set of planning and implementation tasks and deliverables.
18. Ensuring participating initiative leads, school leaders, coaches, and teachers complete role-specific assurances.
19. Submitting all required data.
20. Attendance and engagement by senior district leaders at periodic Communities of Practice (CoPs).

## Program Elements

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This section provides detailed information about the grant.

## Description of Program

High-quality instructional materials (HQIM) are among the most impactful elements of a student's education. HQIM allow students to engage more deeply and meaningfully with the Texas standards and support teachers in ensuring all students have access to high-quality and rigorous grade-level content. The Strong Foundations Implementation Supports grant seeks to dramatically improve the quality of curriculum and instruction in K-5 Literacy and K-12 Math classrooms to accelerate student learning.

Strong Foundations Implementation provides grant funds to LEAs for technical assistance to support high-fidelity implementation of the instructional materials, as well as high-quality professional learning (HQPL) for teachers, coaches, and administrators. LEAs are required to use:

- 50% of grant funds to contract with a single provider from the LASO Cycle II state approved vendor list to provide HQPL,
- 20% of grant funds for additional support from the approved provider and/or salaries or partial salaries for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting implementation of the instructional materials, and
- 30% of grant funds for other allowable expenses (e.g., print materials, digital licenses, teacher stipends, instructional coaches).

There are three options for supports and LEAs may apply for multiple options.

Option A - Strong Foundations Implementation Year 1 Supports: Eligible applicants for Option A are LEAs who will be implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition) in school year 2024-25 with teachers, coaches, and administrators in Year 1 of implementation. In addition to high-quality professional learning, LEAs awarded Option A will also be provided in-kind print materials for teachers and students for the full year, including manipulatives and trade books, in addition to digital access to the core materials.

Option B - Strong Foundations Implementation Year 2 Supports: Eligible applicants for Option B are LEAs currently implementing approved core products in K-5 RLA (Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program, Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español) and/or K-5 Math (Eureka Math TEKS Edition) in school year 2023-24 through a Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Strong Foundation Implementation grant. The purpose of Option B is to provide an additional year of supports for teachers, coaches, and administrators in school year 2024-25. Print materials are not included in Option B and LEAs will need to provide all print materials for teachers. LEAs may use up to 30% of grant funds for other allowable expenses, which can include print materials.

Option C - Secondary Math HQIM Implementation: Eligible applicants for Option C are LEAs who will be implementing the approved core product in 6-12 Math (Carnegie Learning Texas Math Solution) in school year 2024-25. Print materials are not included in Option C and LEAs will need to provide all print materials for teachers. LEAs may use up to 30% of grant funds for other allowable expenses, which can include print materials.

## Supplement, Not Supplant

For supplement, not supplant guidance, see the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook on the Grants Administration Division's [Administering a Grant](#) page.

The supplement not supplant provision

- ☐ Applies
- ☒ Does not apply

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*The following sections designated by an asterisk (\*) are not required and may be skipped by entering a NA if not applicable.*

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## \*Qualifications and Experience

The applicant agrees to provide data on the qualifications and experience of the existing or future staff members, as required per the program guidelines as follows:

Does not apply to this grant program.

## \*Performance and Evaluation Measures

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

The LEA must submit data as requested by TEA, in accordance with TEA guidance, including, but not limited to:

- Teacher identification numbers, including Texas Unique ID.
- Class rosters from each campus for each teacher indicating students enrolled at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the school year.
- LEA artifacts submitted using TEA-provided templates.
- Observation data submitted using TEA-provided observation forms.
- Surveys of teachers, coaches, and leaders prior to and during implementation administered by TEA.
- Assessment data, which may include, but is not limited to, data from the curriculum-embedded unit/module assessments and interim/benchmark assessments administered by the LEA. Assessment data is not evaluative but will inform continuous improvement of the products and implementation supports provided to LEAs.

## Limits on Contracted Evaluators

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

## Application Funding

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

It is anticipated that approximately 75-150 grants will be awarded ranging in amounts based on the following funding formula:

Option A: Strong Foundations Implementation Year 1 Supports and

Option C: Secondary Math HQIM Implementation

- \$3,000 per teacher, coach, and administrator participating in the program
- Additional funding for technical assistance based on LEA size
  - Very Small (1 - 1,599 enrollment): \$100,000
  - Small (1,600 – 4,999 enrollment): \$120,000
  - Small Medium (5,000 – 9,999 enrollment): \$140,000
  - Medium Large (10,000 – 24,999 enrollment): \$160,000
  - Large (25,000 – 49,999 enrollment): \$180,000
  - Very Large (50,000+ enrollment): \$200,000

Option B: Strong Foundations Implementation Year 2 Supports

- \$1,500 per teacher, coach, and administrator participating in the program
- Additional funding for technical assistance based on LEA size
  - Very Small (1 - 1,599 enrollment): \$50,000
  - Small (1,600 – 4,999 enrollment): \$60,000
  - Small Medium (5,000 – 9,999 enrollment): \$70,000
  - Medium Large (10,000 – 24,999 enrollment): \$80,000
  - Large (25,000 – 49,999 enrollment): \$90,000
  - Very Large (50,000+ enrollment): \$100,000

## Selection of Applicants for Funding

Applicants will be selected in:

- ☒ Rank order
- ☐ Click or tap here to enter text.

## Cost Share or Matching Requirement

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

TEA requires a:

- ☐ X% cost share/match
- ☒ There is no cost share or matching requirement

### Limitation of Administrative Funds

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

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

To calculate the maximum indirect costs that can be claimed for a grant, complete the [Maximum Indirect Costs Worksheet](#), posted on the Administering a Grant page, under the Handbooks and Other Guidance section.

### Pre-Award Costs

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

Pre-award costs:

- ☐ are permitted
- ☒ are not permitted

### Activities and Use of Funds

See the [Administering a Grant](#) page for general guidance on allowable activities and use of funds.

Allowable activities and use of funds may include but are not limited to the following:

### Travel Costs for Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members

Travel costs for officials such as the executive director, superintendent, or board members

- ☒ may be funded under the grant program
- ☐ may not be funded under the grant program.

Only the following travel costs are allowable for these positions:

Travel associated with the grant activities.

### General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

LEAs are required to use 50% of grant funds to contract with a single Strong Foundations Approved Provider to provide HQPL, 20% of grant funds for additional support from the approved provider

and/or salaries or partial salaries for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting implementation of the instructional materials, and 30% of grant funds for other allowable expenses (e.g., print materials, digital licenses, teacher stipends, instructional coaches). Other allowable expenses include, as applicable to the core approved product(s) awarded: EQ4

- Stipends for teachers implementing the instructional materials.
- Stipends for instructional coaches supporting implementation of the instructional materials.
- Salary or partial salary for instructional coaches or other positions directly supporting implementation of the instructional materials.
- In-state travel to attend in-person training and/or site visits (e.g., Learning Labs).
- Licenses for digital tool add-ons for Eureka Math TEKS Edition, including Eureka Math TEKS In Sync, Eureka Math Equip, and/or Eureka Math Affirm.
- Licenses for approved supplemental materials for Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program/Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español (Amplify Reading Texas; Amplify mCLASS), Eureka Math TEKS Edition (ST Math, Zearn Math), and/or Carnegie Learning Texas Math Solution (MATHia).
- Print materials (including manipulatives and trade books) for teachers and students if initial print order did not cover all teachers and students using the instructional materials.
- Aligned trade books for Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program/Amplify Texas Lectoescritura En Español from the Amplify Trade Book Guide

## General Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds

In general, refer to the Budgeting Cost Guidance Handbook on the [Administering a Grant](#) page for unallowable costs.

- Field trips
- Advisory Council
- Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization
- Hosting or sponsoring conferences
- Travel for students to conferences
- Stipends for non-employees
- Out-of-State Travel

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

- ☐ Debt service (lease-purchase)
- ☒ Audit services for state-funded grants
- ☒ Other unallowable expenses include, as applicable to the core approved product(s) awarded:
  - Expenses that support the use of Tier 1 instructional materials other than the core approved product.
  - Expenses for licenses for supplemental materials not listed on the approved supplemental materials list.
  - Expenses for supplies not related to implementation of the core approved product.
  - Contracts with a vendor that is not listed on the state approved vendor list.

## Scoring And Review

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

### Grant Review and Funding Criteria

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

All eligible LEA grant applications for Option A will be evaluated on the following categories:

- For K-5 RLA applications, LEAs participating in Strong Foundations Planning for literacy in the 2023-24 school year and in good standing will be prioritized first for grant funds. For K-5 Math applications, LEAs participating in Strong Foundations Planning for math in the 2023-24 school year and in good standing will be prioritized first for grant funds. Good standing in Strong Foundations Planning is defined as completing all required deliverables due in 2023, including the completion of the collective learning series and the submission of the instructional framework.
- For both K-5 RLA and K-5 Math applications, LEAs with prior participation and good standing in the Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP) and/or LEAs classified as rural LEAs will be prioritized second for grant funds. A rural LEA has either: (a) an enrollment of between 300 and the median district enrollment for the state and an enrollment growth rate over the past five years of less than 20 percent; or (b) an enrollment of less than 300 students.
- For both K-5 RLA and K-5 Math applications, LEAs in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state will be prioritized third for grant funds.
- For K-5 RLA applications, eligible LEAs will be awarded based on rank order of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade RLA STAAR scores from lowest to highest. For K-5 Math applications, eligible LEAs will be awarded based on rank order of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Math STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

The process for awarding eligible LEAs for Option A includes:

- Awarding grant funds to applicants with current participation and good standing in Strong Foundations Planning in the 2023-24 school year based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants with current participation and good standing in Strong Foundations Planning have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants with prior participation and good standing in RSSP and/or classified as rural LEAs based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants with prior participation and good standing in RSSP and/or classified as rural LEAs have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

All eligible LEA grant applications for Option B will be evaluated on the following categories:

- LEAs participating in Strong Foundations Implementation in the 2023-24 school year with at least 75% of teachers completing semester 1 professional development will be prioritized first for grant funds.
- LEAs participating in Strong Foundations Implementation in the 2023-24 school year with 50%-74% of teachers completing semester 1 professional development will be prioritized second for grant funds.
- K-5 RLA applications, eligible LEAs will be awarded based on rank order of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade RLA STAAR scores from lowest to highest. For K-5 Math applications, eligible LEAs will be awarded based on rank order of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Math STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

The process for awarding eligible LEAs for Option B includes:

- Awarding grant funds to applicants with at least 75% of teachers completing semester 1 professional development based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants with at least 75% of teachers completing semester 1 professional development have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants with 50%-74% of teachers completing semester 1 professional development based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants with 50%-74% of teachers completing semester 1 professional development have been funded, grants funds will be awarded to other applicants based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

All eligible LEA grant applications for Option C will be evaluated on the following categories:

- LEAs with prior participation and good standing in the Resilient Schools Support Program (RSSP) and/or LEAs classified as rural LEAs will be prioritized second for grant funds. A rural LEA has either: (a) an enrollment of between 300 and the median district enrollment for the state and an enrollment growth rate over the past five years of less than 20 percent; or (b) an enrollment of less than 300 students.
- LEAs in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state will be prioritized third for grant funds.
- For 6-12 Math applications, eligible LEAs will be awarded based on rank order of Algebra I STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

The process for awarding eligible LEAs for Option C includes:

- Awarding grant funds to applicants with prior participation and good standing in RSSP and/or classified as rural LEAs based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants with prior participation and good standing in RSSP and/or classified as rural LEAs have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.



In case of a tie at the end of funding availability, virtual oral interviews will be conducted to assess overall readiness.

Note: Good standing in RSSP is defined as completing the following tasks: (a) LEA designates a Learning Acceleration Task Force (RSSP Committee), and (b) LEA attends required RSSP Events including Launch, RSSP/TAP Calls, Bi-Monthly Check-ins with TEA, and Cohort wide Step-backs. LEAs must also complete (or be on track to completing) the designated milestones with TAP support including: (c) COVID Recovery and Acceleration Plan and Stakeholder Presentation; (d) Priority Area and Goals set; (e) Improvement Plan development; (f) Cycle 1 Mid-Cycle Step-back and Improvement Review 1; and (g) Cycle 2 Mid-Cycle Step-back and Improvement Review 2. LEA must also complete designated RSSP LEA Surveys (Part 1, Part 1.5, Part 2 Cycle 1, Part 2 Cycle 2)

### 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 the topics below, as well as answer any additional questions which TEA may have to assess their readiness for the grant program. The applicant may reference any documents, including the Program Guidelines and FAQs:

- Systems Alignment (50%): Including, but not limited to, instructional time, planning time, and assessment strategy.
- Support Models (50%): Including, but not limited to, coaching supports and observation and feedback practices.