

Informal Discretionary Competition (Grant)

LASO Cycle 3 (2024-2025)

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities

2024-2025 Strong Foundations Implementation Grant

Part C- REVISED 9/10/25

Program Guidelines

Authorized by 89th Texas Leg, HB500 Sec 3.02 Article 3,
HB2 Sec 31.0752b Article 5.20



Grant Application Due Date

December 13, 2024; 5:00 p.m. CST

TEA[®]
Texas Education Agency

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Grant Program Guidelines

Grant Name as it will appear on the TEA Grant Opportunities Page	Strong Foundations Implementation
Application Due Date	December 13, 2024; 5:00 p.m. CT
Program Authority	89th Texas Leg, HB500 Sec 3.02 Article 3, HB2 Sec 31.0752b Article 5.20

* 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

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 such as local educational agencies (LEAs), 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 Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC) Grant 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	Kristi Michaels
Program manager title	Director of HQIM Implementation Supports
Program manager email	strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	512-470-9235

Additional Program Contact

Program manager name	Gloria Matthews
Program manager title	Strong Foundations Implementation Program Lead
Program manager email	strongfoundations@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	512-463-7942

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	\$133,980,000
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	\$133,980,000

* 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
October 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.	General Webinar Option 1 Registration link can be found on the LASO 3 website .
October 3, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.	General Webinar Option 2 Registration link can be found on the LASO 3 website .
October 14, 2024	Grant application available LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 14, 2024. Please see the LASO 3 website for more information.
October 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.	Program Specific Webinar Option 1 Registration link can be found on the LASO 3 website .
October 22, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.	Program Specific Webinar Option 2 Registration link can be found on the LASO 3 website .
November 1, 2024	Deadline to submit questions for the final FAQ document Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at LASO@tea.texas.gov .
November 13, 2024	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. See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Frequently Asked Questions.
December 13, 2024	Due date for the IDC Qualtrics application The LASO 3 application must be received by the TEA by 5:00 p.m., Central Time. See General and Fiscal Guidelines , LASO 3 Application Due Date and Time.
December 20, 2024 - January 30, 2025	Application review period, including interviews if necessary See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Review Process.
February 20, 2025	Anticipated award announcement
February 20, 2025	eGrants ADC and Application opens for awarded applicants
March 1, 2025	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period.
September 29, 2025	Due Date for eGrants Application
June 2, 2026	Last day to amend grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period.
August 31, 2026	End date of grant (if selected for funding) See General and Fiscal Guidelines , Grant Period.

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 (GAA), Article III, Rider 76, 88th Texas Legislature, 2023; General Appropriates Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 94, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.

Where to Submit the Grant Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 14, 2024. Please see the [LASO 3 website](#) for more information.

Purpose of Program

Strong Foundations Implementation provides direct grant funds to LEAs for technical assistance to support high-fidelity implementation of the Texas open education resource (OER) instructional materials, including high-quality professional learning for teachers, instructional coaches, school leaders/campus administrators, and district leaders on effectively implementing OER. Strong Foundations Implementation is the OER Instructional Material Support program established by Chapter 31 of the Texas Education Code.

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible applicants are LEAs implementing approved core instructional materials in school year 2025-26.

Approved core instructional materials pending approval by the State Board of Education through the Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) process include:

- Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Reading Language Arts, Edition 1
- Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Math, Edition 1
- Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Mathematics, Edition 1 (Grades 6-8 and Algebra I)

Additional pilot approved core instructional materials include:

- Aprendizaje Bluebonnet Artes del lenguaje y lectura K-5, Edición 1
- Aprendizaje Bluebonnet Matemáticas K-5, Edición 1

Note: Previous approved core instructional materials in K-5 RLA (K-5 OER RLA COVID Emergency Release V3, also called Amplify Texas Elementary Literacy Program/Amplify Texas Lectoescritura en Español) and/or K-5 Math (K-5 OER Math COVID Emergency Release V2, also called Eureka Math TEKS Edition) and/or 6-12 Math (6-12 OER Math COVID Emergency Release V2, also called Carnegie Learning 6-12 Texas Math Solution) are not eligible.

Note: An LEA is eligible to apply to both Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI) and Instructional Leadership (IL) grants, but in the event that both are awarded, **the LEA must select the same Approved Provider for both SFI and IL**. SFI programming will be limited to support of OER implementation and IL programming will be limited to non-OER support.

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

Eligibility List

There is not an eligibility list for this grant.

Shared Services Arrangement

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

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed.

Application Funding

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

It is anticipated that 100 to 200 applicants will be awarded grants ranging from \$200,000 to \$1,610,000 per LEA per awarded instructional material based on the following funding formula:

- \$200,000 per LEA for up to 30 participants
- \$3,000 per additional participant for up to 470 additional participants for a maximum of 500 total participants

Participants include teachers, instructional coaches, and school leaders/campus administrators participating in the program.

For example:

- Grant for LEA with 20 participants: \$200,000
- Grant for LEA with 100 participants: \$410,000 (\$200,000 + \$3,000 x 70 additional participants)
- Grant for LEA with 1,000 participants: \$1,610,000 (\$200,000 + \$3,000 x 470 additional participants)

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.

There is no cost share or matching requirement for this grant 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 not apply to this grant program.

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.

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.

Pre-Award Costs

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

Pre-award costs are allowed from February 20, 2025.

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.

There are no statutory required responses for this Grant opportunity.

TEA Application Required Responses

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

Applicants must include the following in the application:

- Agree to meet all program-specific assurances
- Select which instructional material(s) the LEA is applying for

- Select the specific campuses implementing each applicable instructional material
- Enter the estimated number of individual teachers and students implementing each applicable instructional material by grade level
- Enter the estimated number of individual coaches supporting implementation of each applicable instructional material

Note: To provide students receiving special education services access to high-quality instructional materials, rigorous instruction, and meaningful inclusion, special education teachers and students receiving special education services should have equitable access to all OER instructional materials provided to general education teachers and students who are not receiving special education services.

Note: Print materials are not included in the grant. LEAs must purchase all print materials required for implementation. Quantities entered in the application will be used by TEA to forecast demand. LEAs will be required to place a separate print order.

Statutory and Program-Specific Assurances

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

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. The applicant assures the LEA will maintain current contact information in AskTED to ensure timely communication.
7. The applicant acknowledges the LEA should draw down approximately 25% of the grant amount quarterly to remain on-track for grant expenditures.
8. The applicant assures the LEA will meet all program-specific assurances, including:
 - a. Ensuring approval by the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program
 - b. Ensuring approval of the board of the local governing agency/trustees of the district to use the instructional materials

- c. Ensuring evidence showing classroom teachers support the use of the instructional materials
- d. Contracting with an Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 3 Approved Provider List for Strong Foundations Implementation
- e. Submitting Approved Provider contracts and required funding summary reports to TEA
- f. Appointing a LEA lead as the primary point of contact responsible for all grant-related activities and designating at least one additional point of contact
- g. Ensuring attendance and engagement by the LEA lead at periodic check-ins with the Approved Provider
- h. Ensuring participation of at least 1 school leader/campus administrator per participating campus
- i. Ensuring attendance and engagement by participating school leaders/campus administrators at periodic check-ins with the Approved Provider
- j. Submitting all required grant deliverables (e.g., district-level instructional materials transition plan, campus-level implementation action plans for all participating campuses)
- k. Ensuring participation of at least 1 coach per instructional material (coaches may include instructional coaches, administrators, leaders, or other individuals directly supporting teachers)
- l. Submitting participant registration information by designated deadlines
- m. Following the year-long scope and sequence for the instructional materials
- n. Meeting the minimum number of instructional minutes for the instructional materials
- o. Using the curriculum-embedded assessments included in the instructional materials
- p. Ensuring participating LEA leads, school leaders/campus administrators, coaches, and teachers are able to attend all required professional learning
- q. Ensuring teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols
- r. Providing print materials for all participating teachers and students
- s. Ensuring digital access and rostering (if applicable) for the instructional materials
- t. Ensuring participating LEA leads, school leaders/campus administrators, coaches, and teachers complete all program requirements
- u. Submitting all required data

Program Elements

Description of Program

The vision for Strong Foundations is for all Texas students to have access to rigorous, grade-level content and instruction every day. Strong Foundations Implementation supports LEAs in implementing the Texas open education resource (OER) instructional materials to provide students access to high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) and high-quality instruction.

Strong Foundations Implementation provides direct grant funds to LEAs for technical assistance to support high-fidelity implementation of the Texas OER instructional materials, including high-quality professional learning (HQPL) for teachers, coaches, school leaders/campus administrators, and district leaders on

effectively implementing OER. Strong Foundations Implementation is the OER Instructional Material Support program established by Chapter 31 of the Texas Education Code.

Technical assistance includes:

- Support in developing a district-level instructional materials transition plan and campus-level implementation action plans
- Facilitation of flexible supports for school leaders/campus administrators (e.g., professional learning, coaching, consultations)
- Learning walks with school leaders/campus administrators to understand implementation fidelity and progress
- Facilitation of HQPL for teachers and coaches on effectively implementing the instructional materials
- Facilitation of flexible supports for teachers and coaches (e.g., additional professional learning, unit and lesson internalization, lesson rehearsal, student work analysis, observation and feedback)
- Observations to support teacher implementation

LEAs are required to use:

- 50% of grant funds to contract with a single Approved Provider per instructional material from the LASO Cycle 3 Approved Provider List for Strong Foundations Implementation to support grant activities (it is highly recommended that LEAs contract with the same provider for all instructional materials)
- 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
- 30% of grant funds for other allowable expenses (e.g., print materials, digital licenses, assessment licenses, teacher stipends, instructional coaches)

In-kind print materials are not included in the grant. LEAs will need to provide all print materials for teachers and students.

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
- Deliverables submissions using TEA-provided templates
- Surveys of teachers, coaches, school leaders/campus administrators, and LEA leads prior to and during the school year administered by TEA

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

- Payroll costs
- Professional and contracted services
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials

LEAs are required to use 50% of grant funds to contract with a single Approved Provider per instructional material from the LASO Cycle 3 Approved Provider List for Strong Foundations Implementation to support grant activities (it is highly recommended that LEAs contract with the same Approved Provider for all instructional materials); 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. *Up to 30% of grant funds may be utilized for the procurement of approved core instructional materials in printed format, as well as for covering the associated reasonable and necessary freight costs for shipping these printed materials. Please confirm any local allowability with your business office or independent auditor.*

Other allowable expenses include, as applicable to the core approved instructional materials awarded:

- Additional support from the Approved Provider
- 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 support grant activities (e.g., site visits to HQIM Learning Labs)
- Licenses for approved supplemental materials approved through the **HB 1416 Ratio Waiver List (RWL)**, **Math Supplemental Curriculum (MSC)** initiative, or the **Blended Learning Grant Program (BLGP)**:
 - Math
 - Carnegie Mathia (MSC, BLGP for 6-8, Alg I, Geom, Alg II)
 - iReady Math (MSC, BLGP for K-8)
 - IXL Math (MSC, RWL for PK-12)
 - MyMathAcademy (MSC, BLGP for PK-2)
 - ST Math (MSC, RWL for PK-8)
 - Zearn Math (MSC, BLGP for K-8)
 - RLA:
 - Amira Learning (RWL for K-6)
 - HMH Read180 Flex (RWL for 3-12)
 - IXL Language Arts (RWL for PK-12)
 - Boost Reading Texas (district-proposed through BLGP, K-8)
 - iReady Reading (district-proposed through BLGP, K-8)
- Licenses for assessment platforms supporting the approved core instructional materials

- Print materials (including manipulatives and trade books) for teachers and students

Other Allowable Operating Costs Requiring Specific Approval in the Grant Application (6400)

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:

- Travel associated with the grant activities. Travel expenses are capped at 5% of the 30% discretionary spending allotment (1.5% of the total award).

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
- Travel for students to conferences
- Field trips
- Stipends for non-employees
- Non-employee costs for conferences
- Travel costs for officials such as executive director, superintendent, or board members that is not associated with the grant activities.
- Cost of membership in any civic or community organization
- Hosting or sponsoring of conferences
- Advisory council

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 Lease Liability — Principal Costs (6512)
 - b. Capital Lease Liability – Interest Costs (6522)
 - c. Interest on Debt Costs (6523)
 - d. Audit services for state-funded Grants

Other unallowable expenses include, as applicable to the core instructional material(s) awarded:

- Expenses that support the use of Tier 1 instructional materials other than the core approved instructional materials, including previous core approved instructional materials 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)

- Contracts with a provider not included on the LASO Cycle 3 Approved Provider List for Strong Foundations Implementation
- Stipends or salaries for positions not directly supporting implementation of the core approved instructional materials
- Expenses for print materials of the core approved instructional materials above the 30% threshold
- Expenses for licenses for supplemental materials not included on the approved supplemental materials list
- Expenses for materials and supplies not directly related to implementation of the core approved instructional materials
- Expenses for technology (e.g., computers)
- Expenses for in-state travel not directly related to grant activities

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.

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

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.

This requirement does not apply to this grant program.

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
STAAR Scores	Rank order from lowest to highest using 3 rd grade RLA STAAR scores for K-5 RLA applications, 3 rd grade Math STAAR scores for K-5 Math applications, and Algebra I STAAR scores for 6-8 Math applications	n/a

LEAs in Strong Foundations Planning (SFP)	LEAs with prior participation and good standing in Strong Foundations Planning in SY2022-23, SY2023-24, and/or SY2024-25 in the same content area (i.e., SFP in literacy for K-5 RLA applications, SFP in math for K-5 Math and/or 6-8 Math applications), with good standing defined as completion or on track to completion of all required grant activities	1 st priority tier
LEAs with Board of Managers, Monitor, or Conservator for Academic Performance	LEAs with a Commissioner-appointed board of managers, monitor, or conservator for academic performance	2 nd priority tier
LEAs in the Bottom Quartile of STAAR Scores	LEAs in the bottom quartile of STAAR scores using 3 rd grade RLA STAAR scores for K-5 RLA applications, 3 rd grade Math STAAR scores for K-5 Math applications, and Algebra I STAAR scores for 6-8 Math applications	3 rd priority tier
LEAs Classified as Rural	LEAs classified as rural as defined as (a) enrollment of between 300 and the median district enrollment of the state and an enrollment growth rate over the past five years of less than 20 percent, or (b) enrollment of less than 300 students	4 th priority tier
LEAs in the Top Quartile of Economically Disadvantaged Students	LEAs in the top quartile of economically disadvantaged students in the state as defined as eligibility to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program	5 th priority tier
Total Standard Review Points Possible		n/a

Priority Points

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

All eligible applicants will be categorized in priority tiers as noted above with grant funds awarded as follows:

- Grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 1st priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants in the 1st priority tier have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 2nd priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After the applicants in the 2nd priority tier have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 3rd priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

- After the applicants in the 3rd priority tier have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 4th priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After applicants in the 4th priority tier have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to applicants in the 5th priority tier based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.
- After applicants in the 5th priority tier have been funded, grant funds will be awarded to other applicants based on rank order of STAAR scores from lowest to highest.

Oral Interviews for Funding

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

During the virtual oral interviews (if needed), 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.

If an LEA qualifies for multiple Curriculum and Instruction bundled grants, then the following criteria will be used to grant multiple grants.

- Readiness: LEAs provide plan on how these programs would successfully co-exist.
- Resource considerations: LEAs provide plan for staffing resources to execute multiple programs well.
- Past success: LEAs provide success data for prior participation.

The LEA may be asked to submit evidence for the above criteria, and/or invited to a virtual interview to determine best-fit grants, if deemed necessary by the TEA.