



Navigating Excellence Through Targeted Supports (NEXT) Initiative

October 16 and 17, 2025

- **Chris DeWitt**
- Director, Division of System Support

Agenda

Overview of LASO Cycle 4
Application Process and Timeline

NEXT Deep Dive

Next Steps

FYIs



Submit questions during the webinar using the Zoom Q&A



Webinar slides and recordings will be posted on the [LASO 4 Cycle website](#) after all webinars have been completed



Email LASO@tea.texas.gov with follow-up questions

Overview of LASO Cycle 4

Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO)



Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) is a **single, consolidated application that combines grants, allotments, and in-kind supports**, bundled around a few key strategies to accelerate academic gains. LASO Cycle 4 will offer 15 opportunities focused on curriculum & instruction, educator training, more time, and innovative school models.

\$500M

in estimated services
and supports

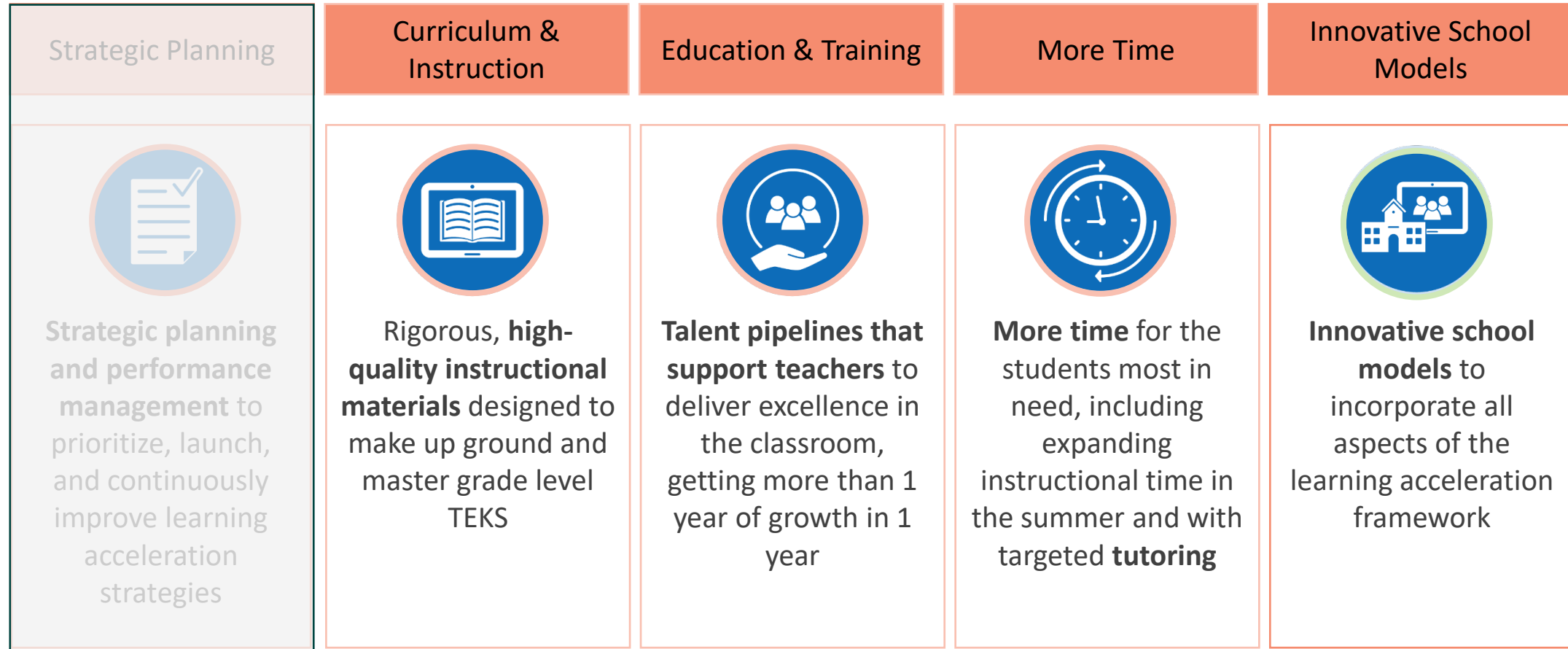
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Initiatives to support
learning acceleration
and innovation

1

Application to access
funding

LASO Cycle 4 will be anchored in four Learning Acceleration Strategies



LASO 4 Portfolio

Several LASO initiatives span multiple years. The funding view has been updated to display the **total allocation across all years**, beginning with the LASO cycle and including continuation grants where applicable.



Initiative	District or Campus Level	Estimated Total Allocation Available	Initiative Duration In Years	Estimated Range of Award	Estimated Number of Awards
Curriculum and Instruction					
Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) LIFT merges programs formerly known as Strong Foundations- SF, Texas Instructional Leadership- TIL, and Texas Lesson Study- TXLS	District	\$248M	3	\$235K-1.5M	350-475
LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support (LIFT SI PLC) (available only for Title I Comprehensive, Targeted, and Addtl Targeted)	Campus	\$45M	1	\$60K-120K	150-300
School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG) (available only for Title I Comprehensive, Targeted, and Addtl Targeted)	Campus	\$10M	1	Up to \$200K	Up to 50
Blended Learning Grant (BLG) Two Cohorts: Academic – Math or RLA cohort and Strategic Operations Cohort	District	\$6M	2-3	Academic- Up to \$180K Strat Ops- Up to \$310K	15-20
AP Computer Science Principles (APCSP)	District	\$1.292M	1	\$10K- 100K	Up to 50
Education and Training					
PREP Program Allotment 1. PREP Residency Preservice Program 2. PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program 3. PREP Mentorship Program	District	\$146M	1	Residency Program: \$24K-1.6M Grow Your Own: \$8K-480K Mentor Program: \$3K-120K	All eligible districts may receive the allotment
Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant	District	\$2.9M	2	Up to \$58.4K	Up to 50
More Time					
Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP) Two Cohorts: Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning	District	\$7.7M	2-3	Summer- Up to \$200K Full Year- Up to \$600K	30-36
Innovative School Models - Launch Grants					
School Action Fund (SAF)	Campus	\$30M	2-3	\$185K-375K	27-30
Navigating Excellence through Targeted Supports (NEXT)	Campus	\$1.75M	1	Up to \$150K	Up to 5
Early College High School (ECHS)	Campus	\$800K	2	Up to \$100K	Up to 8
Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH)	Campus	\$1M	2	Up to \$100K	Up to 10
Virtual Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)	Campus	\$5M	2	Up to \$230K	10-14

NEXT Deep Dive

SBOE Board Member Staci Childs



SBOE Member District 4

Staci.Childs@sboe.texas.gov

Why NEXT?



- There are nearly **300 D/F-rated elementary campuses** in Texas that *are not eligible* for additional title 1 supports.
- The **Navigating Excellence Through Targeted Supports (NEXT)** Initiative grant supports low performing elementary school campuses at school districts and open-enrollment charters.

Navigating Excellence through Integrated Supports (NEXT)

Description of Available Supports

The Navigating Excellence Through Targeted Supports Initiative (“NEXT”) is designed to support low-performing elementary school campuses at school districts and open-enrollment charters to implement high quality math and reading language arts curriculum and instruction, aligned targeted tutoring, and targeted community and parent engagement.

Grantees will receive intensive support to plan and implement

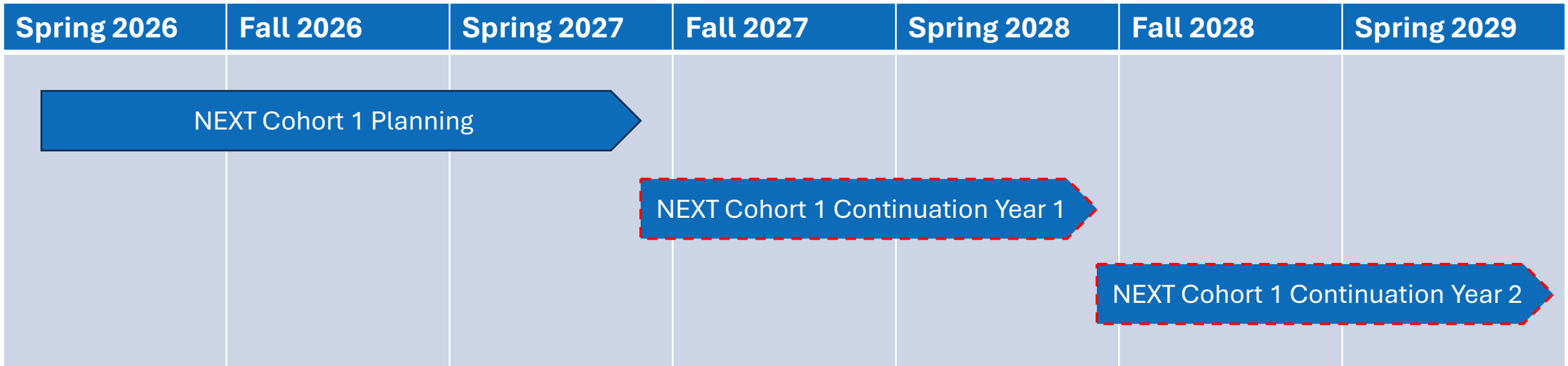
- **High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)** in math and RLA
- Research-backed **high-impact tutoring**
- Quarterly **Family and Parent Labs**
- Performance Management routines to drive **Continuous improvement**

Potential Grant/Technical Assistance Programs

Program	Guidance	Timing and Key Links
Navigating Excellence Through Targeted Supports Initiative (“NEXT”) Eligibility: • Campuses rated D or F on 2025 TEA Accountability and • Campuses that are not federally designated as CSI, TSI, or ATS • Campuses that serve grades PK or Kindergarten through 5th grade	Fit for campuses/LEAs that • are interested in intensive holistic supports to address low-performance • Have strong Superintendent buy-in to make significant change in alignment with NEXT requirements • Are committed to strong parent and family engagement, staff support, and full HQIM implementation	• Application open: October 3, 2025 (part of LASO application) • Application due: December 3, 2025

NEXT Planning & Implementation Timeline

- **NEXT Cohort 1** will be awarded in LASO 4 to cover planning activities.
- Campuses that meet all planning requirements may be eligible **for up to 2 years of continuation funding** to support implementation.



NEXT Funding and Resources over 3 Years

School System Grant

325k

- Staffing, materials, technology, etc.

In-Kind Technical Assistance

150k

- TEA-matched technical assistance provider

In-Kind Supports

75k

- Quarterly Parent Labs, bi-annual NEXT convenings, and travel

NEXT campuses implement HQIM and RBIS

To be considered HQIM in the state of Texas, the instructional materials must:

- Ensure **full coverage of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)**.
- Align to the **English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS)** and **prekindergarten guidelines**.
- Provide **evidence-based best practices** in the relevant content areas of reading language arts (RLA), math, science, and social studies.
- **Support all learners**, including students with disabilities, Emergent Bilinguals (EB), and students identified as gifted and talented.
- Meet **grade-level suitability** requirements.
- Be **free from factual error**.
- Enable **frequent progress monitoring** through embedded and aligned assessments.
- Provide teacher and student-facing lesson materials with implementation supports.
- Follow **Manufacturing Standards and Specifications for Textbooks (MSST)** for physical and electronic materials.
- Receive **approval from the SBOE** through the Instructional Materials Review and Approval (IMRA) process.

The RBIS are...

- ✓ A set of research-based practices that highlight misconceptions that are most common in the field
- ✓ Topics that sometimes require conceptual or philosophical changes to how we approach instruction
- ✓ A set of practices that are supported by research and should be present in classrooms, regardless of instructional materials
- ✓ Based in the science of how students best learn math and reading in K-12 classrooms.

NEXT campuses implement high-impact tutoring to accelerate instruction

Districts across Texas are seeing success with **high-impact tutoring paired with Outcomes Based Contracting.**

High-Impact Tutoring Best Practices:

- HIT is embedded in schools either during the school day or immediately before or after the school day.
- Tutoring sessions include a minimum of three sessions per week in small groups (3:1 student-tutor ratio).
- Students work with a consistent tutor who is supported by ongoing oversight and coaching.
- Materials are high quality and aligned with state standards.

NEXT campuses enlist parents as partners

Quarterly district-led Parent Labs empower families to support their children to thrive in their learning.



NEXT campuses monitor fidelity of implementation to drive continuous improvement



Grant Scoring and Methodology

Standard Grant Review Criteria	Description
Eligibility Determination	• Campuses rated D or F on 2025 TEA Accountability and • Campuses that are not federally designated as CSI, TSI, or ATS • Campuses that serve grades PK or Kindergarten through 5th grade
Priority Points	• 10 points: school systems with a Commissioner-appointed board of managers*, monitor, or conservator for academic performance. • 10 points: school systems who have participated in Strong Foundations • 10 points: school systems with a fully approved Teacher Incentive Allotment system • 10 points: school systems with at least one campus with an ADSY calendar • 10 points: school systems with 5-day school weeks.

* All districts with a state appointed board of managers and/or with at least 5 years of unacceptable accountability ratings

Methodology

- TEA will sort campuses by priority points total and rank by Overall 2025 A-F Scale Score, lowest to highest. (i.e., rank all campuses with 50 points by scale score, then all campuses with 40 points by scale score, etc.)
- In the case of a tie, grants will be awarded to the campus with the highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

NEXT Key Commitments



Commitments*

- Grantees will submit **fidelity of planning** deliverables before the end of the planning year, including but not limited to the following:
 - Campus master schedule
 - Assessment calendar
 - Stakeholder engagement plan
 - Professional learning calendars
- **Project Management**, including designating a project manager
- Grantees will adopt and **fully implement IMRA-approved HQIM** in reading and math.
- Grantees will participate in **Quarterly Parent Labs** (at least four per year) for parents and caregivers to deepen their understanding in how to support their student(s) in reading, writing, and math.

Role & Time Commitment

Role	Commitment
Project Manager 50% of time	District-level project manager will design and implement the NEXT grant (ideally a principal manager or equivalent role with direct influence on campus operations)
Campus Leadership	Campus-based leaders will receive regular coaching and support to fully implement NEXT-aligned shifts to curriculum and instruction and campus operations

**not an exhaustive list of eligibility, program assurances or requirements.*

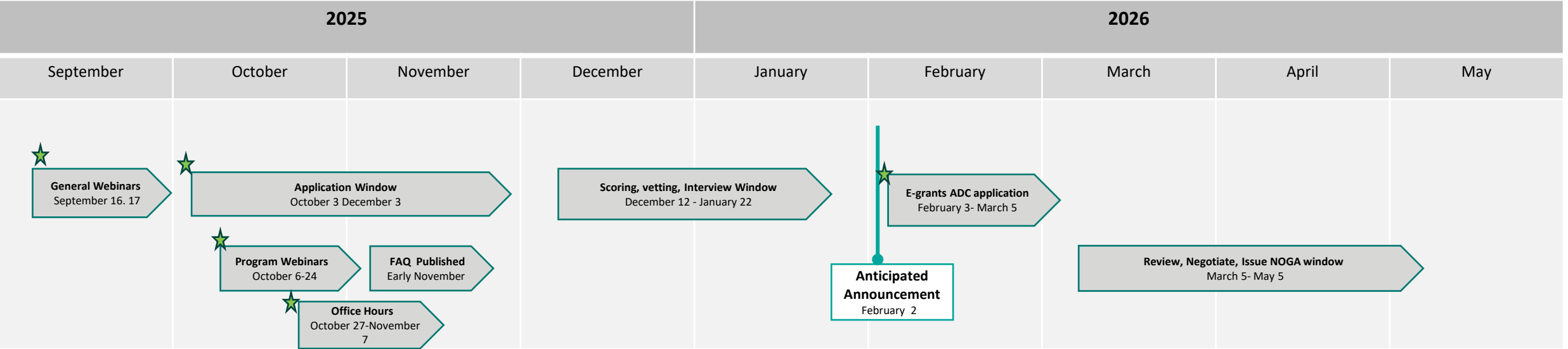
More information can be found in the Program Guidelines

NEXT Time Commitment

ROLE	NEXT
BOARD	Time per week: n/a
	Activity: n/a
SUPT	Time per week: 1hr
	Activities: Receive weekly updates on NEXT implementation; join campus walkthroughs (monthly/ bi-monthly)
C-SUITE: CAO, SFO, CIO	Time per week: Varies
	Activities: Coordinate allocation of resources, including personnel, and appropriate drawdown of funds. Monitor fidelity of implementation of program. Meet with TEA team.
DISTRICT LEADERS	Times per week: Up to 20 hours
	Activities: Campus walkthroughs and progress monitoring of data. Coordinate allocation of resources, including personnel, and appropriate drawdown of funds. Monitor fidelity of implementation of program. Meet with TEA team.
CAMPUS LEADERS (includes coaches)	Time per week: 3-5 hours
	Activities: Receive individualized coaching, lead observation and feedback cycles, manage campus-level implementation
TEACHERS	Time per week: 2-4 hours above normal duties
	Activities: Participate in training and coaching; Participate in bi-annual convenings (if applicable)

Next Steps

Timeline Overview- LASO 4 application opens October 3 and closes December 3 5:00 pm CT



Major Milestones

- **Application** | opens on October 3rd and closes on December 3rd at 5:00pm CT. School systems have 60 days to complete the application for the initiatives that they wish to apply.
- **Scoring and interview** | opens December 4th- January 22nd . TEA may reach out to districts for interviews to provide an opportunity to determine readiness and fit.
- **eGrants window** | open February 3rd-March 5th. This is the window for districts to accept or decline any initiative offering selected to receive funding.
- **NOGA** | There is a 60-day window for NOGA issuing. The NOGAs are processed in the order received. A delay in submission may impact the NOGA date.



**School systems
must submit
LASO Cycle 4
applications by
December 3 at
5:00pm CST**



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)



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



Applications must be signed by the superintendent to be accepted

Questions?



Office Hours

Attend office hours for technical assistance or discussion with program teams

- October 29, 2025, 9:00-9:30 am CT ([registration link](#))
- Application Support: October 27, 8:00-8:30 am CT ([registration link](#))
- Application Support: November 3, 5:00 pm CT ([registration link](#))



FAQs

Review the general FAQ (updated FAQs will be posted by November 3)



Email

- For questions about the application process or technical assistance with the application, contact LASO@tea.texas.gov

Change Requests and Declines in LASO

- LASO has an informal discretionary competitive grant process
 - Declines and change requests are not advisable in typical competitive process
 - If declines are requested, they will be considered on a case-by-case basis for the school systems and could raise the school systems federal grant risk level in the coming year

LASO application window opened on October 3, 2025 and closes on December 3, 2025 at 5:00 CT



Application Window

October 3- December 3



Program Webinars

October 6- 24



Next Steps

Visit the LASO 4 website to familiarize with included grant offerings.

Communicate and share the information with school system internal teams to support the decision-making process on which sets of grants to apply for.

Register for our upcoming informational webinars.



Resources Available

- [Best Fit Guidance](#) provides criteria to help determine if a grant fits school system needs
- [Grant One Pagers](#) provide preliminary grant eligibility and key commitments
- [Eligibility and Prioritization Guidance Doc](#) provides information to help determine the likelihood of being awarded

Find all LASO related supports - including timelines, webinars, and planning tools - at tea.texas.gov/LASO

Thank you!