



PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program

October 21 and 23, 2025



Introductions



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Agenda

Overview of LASO Cycle 4
Application Process and Timeline

PREP GYO Program 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 Cycle 4 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

15

Initiatives to support
learning acceleration
and innovation

1

Application to access
funding

LASO Grants

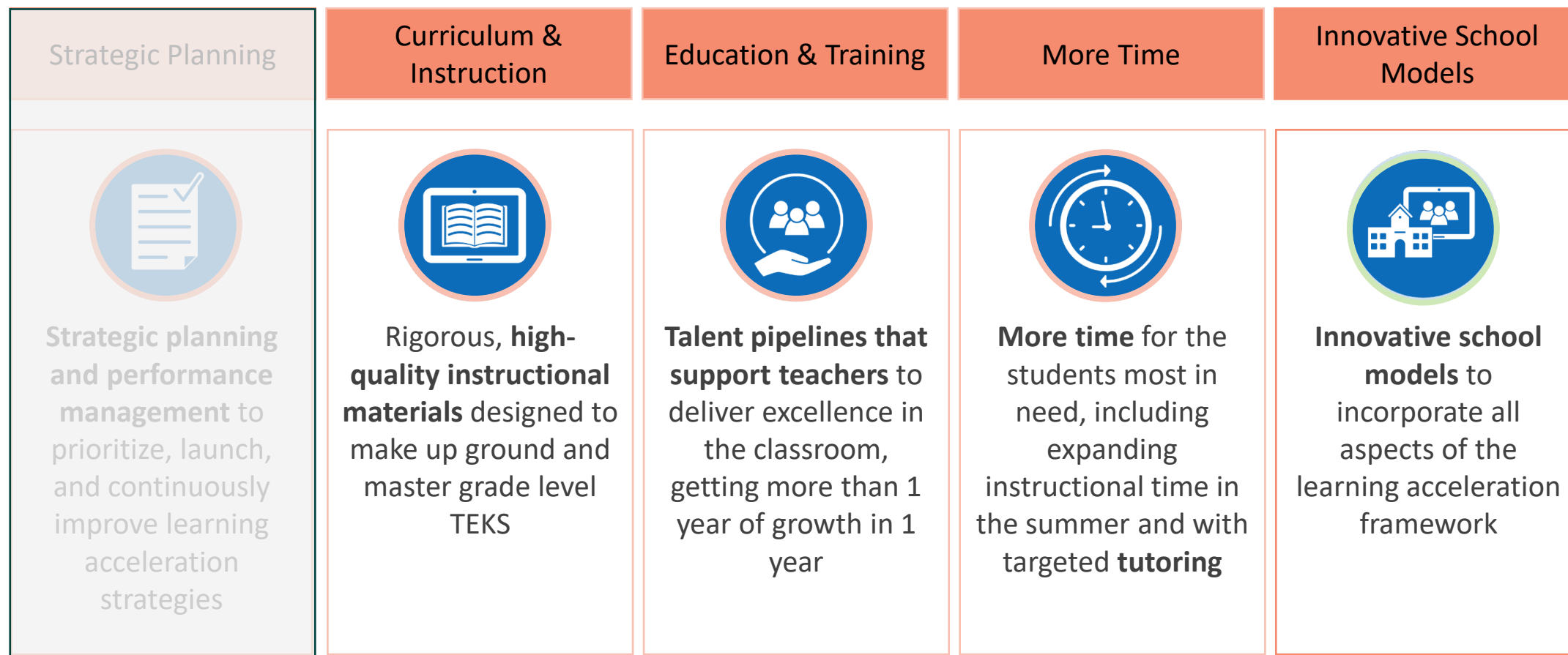
School systems are selected for funding based on a set of priority points.

vs

LASO PREP Program Allotment

All school systems are selected for funding that meet eligibility criteria and commit to statutorily-based requirements.

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	\$200M	3	\$235K-1.5M	350-475
LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support (LIFT SI PLC) <i>(available only for Title I Comprehensive, Targeted, and Addtl Targeted)</i>	Campus	\$45M	1	\$60K-120K	150-300
School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG) <i>(available only for Title I Comprehensive, Targeted, and Addtl Targeted)</i>	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	\$4M	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

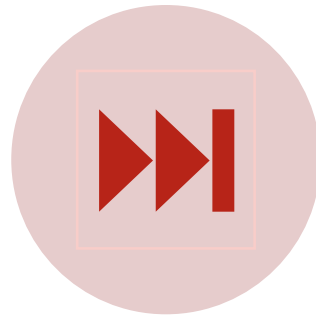
PREP GYO Program Deep Dive

The PREP Program Allotment is a historic investment in teacher recruitment, preparation, and mentorship



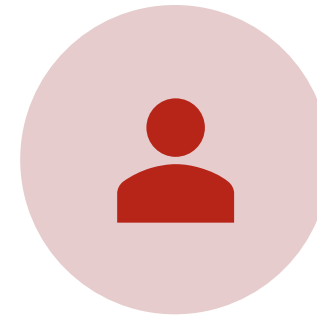
\$400M+ Annually

A statewide investment in teacher recruitment, preparation & certification, and mentoring—at scale.



Reliable Funding Streams

Establishes consistent entitlements for districts and Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs).



Support for 200+ Educators per LEA

Funding for aspiring teachers and mentors every year.



Reaching 5.5M+ Students

Potential to transform learning across 1,200+ Texas districts

The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment aims to strengthen the quality of teacher **recruitment, preparation, and mentorship** leading to increased educator effectiveness and retention.

The PREP Program Allotment provides funding for various partnerships, and school systems may apply for funding for the following programs through LASO Cycle 4.

- PREP Preservice **Residency** Program
- PREP **Grow Your Own** Program
- PREP **Mentorship** Program

Through LASO 4, school systems may also apply for **Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant** to support implementation and reach of the PREP Program Allotment.

Three of the PREP Programs are available via the LASO Cycle 4 application



Recruitment

PREP Grow Your Own Program

Preparation

PREP Preservice Residency Program

Mentorship

PREP Mentorship Program

Available in LASO Cycle 4 for SY26-27

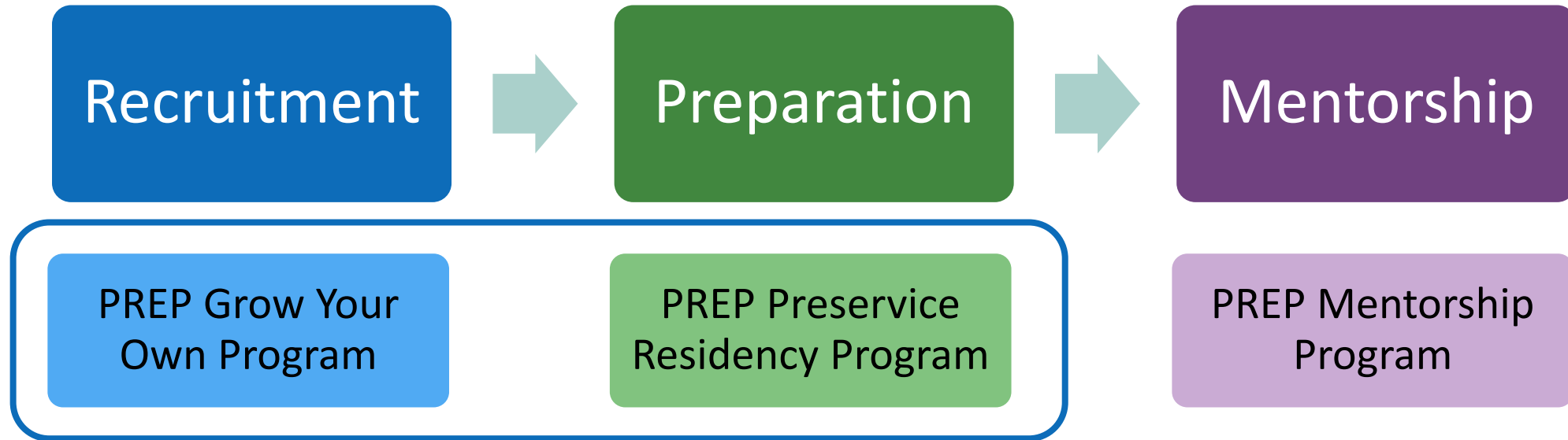
Unique application sections

PREP Preservice Traditional Program

PREP Preservice Alternative Program

Will be available in LASO Cycle 5 for SY 27-28

PREP GYO and Residency Preservice Participation



PREP Grow Your Own funding can begin for participating school systems in 2026-27, if they are also participating in a Preservice Preparation Partnership

PREP GYO: Becoming Degreed, Certified Teachers



Earn a bachelor's degree: Partner with an IHE/EPP to enroll the paraprofessional or other employee in a BA program and provide scheduled release time for coursework and advising, so the employee completes their BA and enrolls in an accredited EPP within 3 years.



Gain early teacher training: Provide the employee with on-the-job training on teaching while in their current role, including opportunities for practice under an effective teacher.



Grow future educators: Implement a high school Education and Training CTE pathway to provide early training and practice opportunities for current students to build interest in the teaching profession.



Receive success and need-based funding: PREP Allotment funding flows to the LEA per employee, can be used at the LEA's discretion for program implementation, including for tuition costs, and is tied to the employee's successful completion of a BA.

Note: LEAs will only be eligible for GYO Program if they also apply for a Preservice Preparation Partnership. For 2026-27, this only includes Residency Preservice Partnerships, but will expand to other Preservice Preparation Partnership options the following year.

PREP GYO: Becoming Degreed, Certified Teachers



Earn a bachelor's degree: Partner with an IHE/EPP to enroll the paraprofessional or other employee in a BA program and provide scheduled release time for coursework and advising, so the employee **completes their BA and enrolls in an accredited EPP* within 3 years.**



Gain early teacher training: Provide the employee with on-the-job training on teaching while in their current role, including opportunities for practice under an effective teacher.



Grow future educators: Implement a high school Education and Training CTE pathway to provide early training and practice opportunities for current students to build interest in the teaching profession.



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Partnerships Requirements: The Written Agreement



PREP Grow Your Own Program: Partnership Requirements

- A **written agreement** with an institution of higher education and educator preparation program for PREP GYO program implementation by the 2026-2027 school year

Written Agreement of Partnership:

- Articulate that the partnership will implement all TEC requirements pertaining to §§21.902, 21.906, 48.157
- Articulate that the partnership has read the proposed Commissioner of Education Rules for the PREP Grow Your Own program and agrees to those requirements

Support for developing the Written Agreement:

- Once school systems have been approved to participate, TEA staff will provide guidance for submission of the written agreement.
- Guidance will include a template and several examples of a completed agreement.

Employee must earn a bachelor's degree within 3 years of beginning the PREP GYO Program and at least enroll in an EPP



Considerations:

- Given the three-year time frame, the partnership should consider prioritizing employees who have some (30 hours or more) previous college credits.
- The partnership may still use allotment funds to support employees earlier in their progression or to support the high school pathway.

PREP GYO: Becoming Degreed, Certified Teachers



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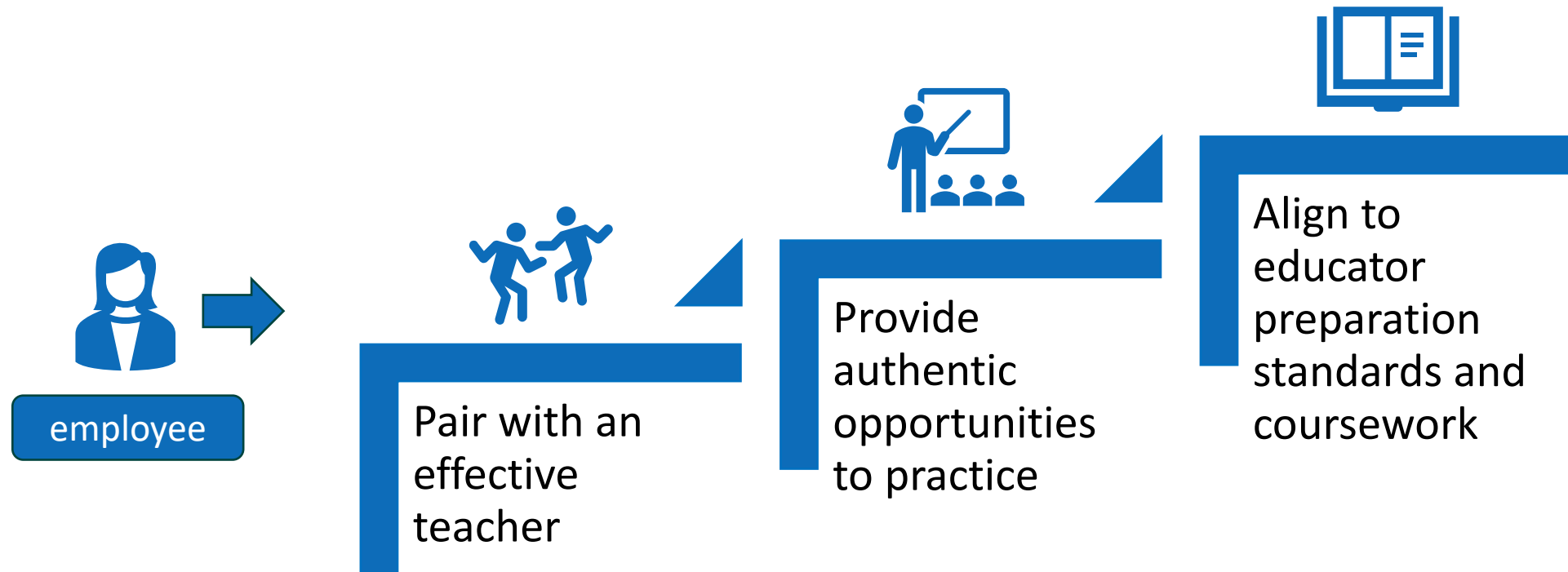


Grow future educators: Implement a high school Education and Training CTE pathway to provide early training and practice opportunities for current students to build interest in the teaching profession.



Receive success and need-based funding: PREP Allotment funding flows to the LEA per employee, can be used at the LEA's discretion for program implementation, including for tuition costs, and is tied to the employee's successful completion of a BA.

Early Teacher Training



PREP GYO: Becoming Degreed, Certified Teachers



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Grow future educators: Implement a high school Education and Training CTE pathway to provide early training and practice opportunities for current students to build interest in the teaching profession.



Receive success and need-based funding: PREP Allotment funding flows to the LEA per employee, can be used at the LEA's discretion for program implementation, including for tuition costs, and is tied to the employee's successful completion of a BA.

Coursework



- Take courses as part of Education and Training Program of Study and, potentially, dual credit
- Additionally, gain experience working with students, building towards an Educational Aide I certification

Opportunities to Practice



- Can be paid or unpaid
- Examples include internships, field-site based experiences through coursework, tutoring

Transition Supports



- Explore post-secondary options for teacher preparation

PREP GYO: Becoming Degreed, Certified Teachers



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Receive success and need-based funding: PREP Allotment funding flows to the LEA per employee, can be used at the LEA's discretion for program implementation, including for tuition costs, and is tied to the employee's successful completion of a BA.

Funding Snapshot: PREP Grow Your Own Program (\$8-12K per Employee)



**40 Para-
professionals
per year***



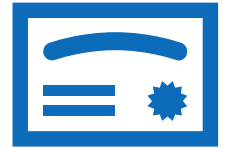
LEA



Paraprofessional



Advisor



IHE

Initial Funding

Per employee who
begins GYO pathway

\$4K

+Rural/High: **\$0K - \$2K**

Success Based Funding

After employee earns
BA + enrolls in an EPP

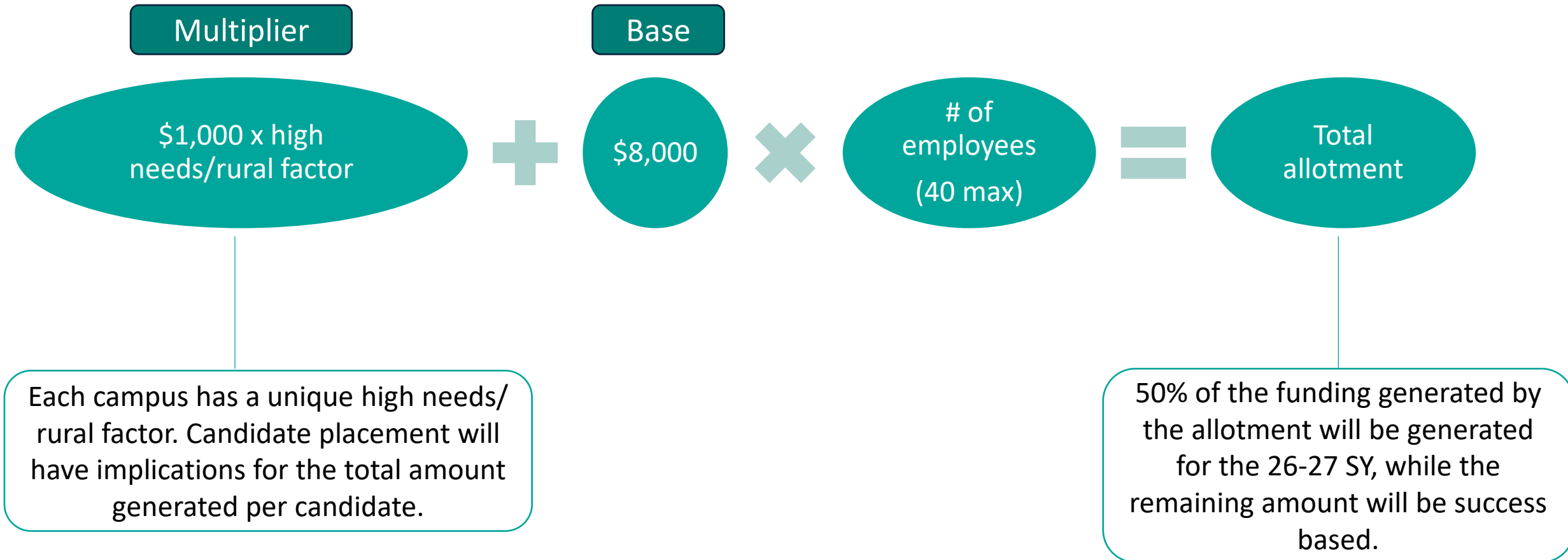
\$4K

+Rural/High: **\$0K - \$2K**

LEAs may allocate funds received to support IHE tuition costs, costs to provide structured advising to the paraprofessional so they can successfully complete their bachelor degree, costs for employee release time, and other GYO related costs.

**Other employees, besides paraprofessionals, are also eligible.*

Funding Formula—How GYO allotment funding is generated



Funding Formula: A Simplified Example

In this example, a school system has 3 campuses: Campus A, B, and C. Each campus has its own point value based on socioeconomic level and rural status (high needs/rural factor).

Employee Placement	High Needs/Rural Factor	Multiplier	Base	# of Employees	Campus Total
Campus A	2	× \$1,000 + \$8,000 ×		20	\$200,000
Campus B	3			10	\$110,000
Campus C	4			10	\$120,000

40 employees cap

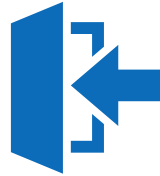
School System Total: \$430,000
Initial: \$215,000
Success based: \$215,000

Putting the Pieces Together: Grow Your Own Program in Action

Progression through the Grow Your Own Program



Spring - Summer:
school system
confirms
participating
employees and
placement campuses



Year 1, Fall:
Employees begin the
Allotment Program;
school system
provides job
assignments that
include instructional
support



**Length of time varies,
up to 3 years:**
School System
provides supports to
Employees:
-scheduled **release time**
-**practice** in instructional
setting
-on-the-job **training**

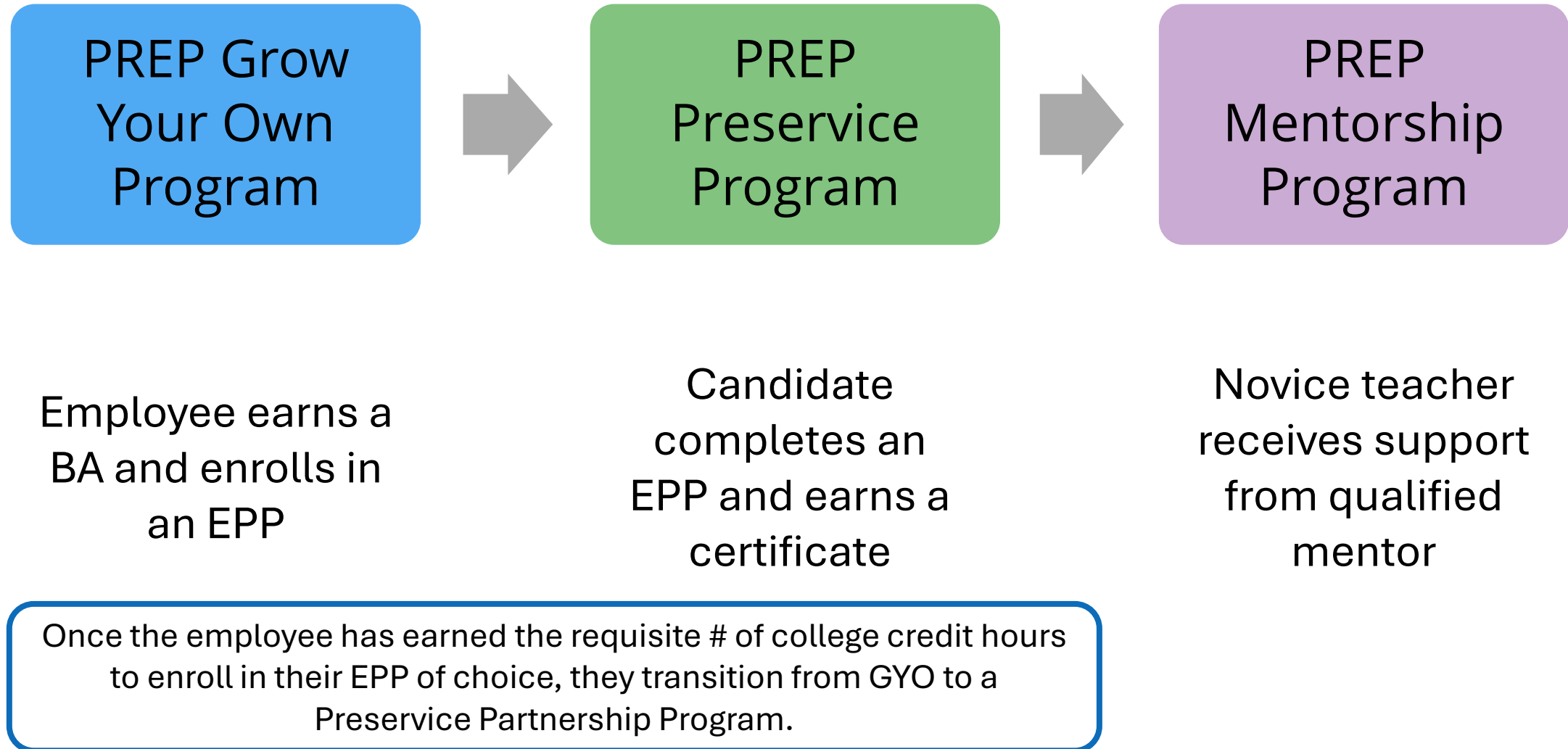


By end of year 3:
Employees **complete**
bachelor's degree
requirements and at
least **enroll in an**
EPP; school system
provides **transition**
supports for
satisfying teacher
prep requirements

Prior to allotment
program begin date

Allotment Program Duration (up to 3 years, timeline varies)

The PREP Programs are structured to “baton-pass” from one program to the next



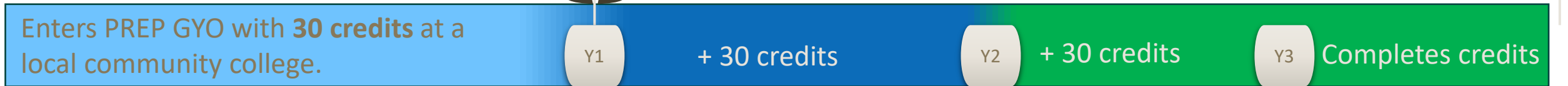
An example of an employee's progression from PREP GYO to a Preservice PREP Program...and related allotment funding opportunities



Scenario: The GYO employee is employed on a campus with a **high needs/rural factor = 2** and remains on the same campus throughout the duration of their teacher residency program to attain a certificate in special education.

Employee begins PREP GYO Program and **generates allotment of \$5,000** for school year.

End of Y3: Candidate Completes Bachelor's & Cert. School system accrues success and needs-based funds from the GYO (\$5,000) and Residency (\$10,000) programs.



Enters PREP GYO with **30 credits** at a local community college.

Prior to PREP GYO Program, Employee worked previously in the district as a para-professional.

Candidate begins PREP RES Program. School system begins to stack funds from both PREP GYO and Residency programs. **Candidate generates \$12,000.**

Application Requirements

Eligibility Criteria: School Systems



School systems, which includes **districts and charter schools** as defined below, are eligible to apply to each of the PREP Programs. Each eligible applicant is subject to PREP Program Allotment statutorily-based funding caps described in each of the program's guidelines.

For the purposes of the PREP Program Allotment, a charter school is defined as a Texas public school that:

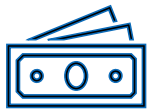
- is operated by a charter holder under an open-enrollment charter granted either by the State Board of Education or commissioner of education pursuant to Texas Education Code (TEC), §12.101, identified with its own county district number;
- has a charter granted under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C*;
- has a charter granted under TEC, §29.259 and Human Resources Code, §221.002*; or
- has a charter granted under TEC, §11.157(b).

**Reference the following two slides for eligibility specifics for SB 1882 Operating Partners and Adult Charter Schools.*

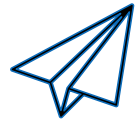
Eligibility Criteria: SB 1882 Operating Partners



Senate Bill 1882 Operating Partners that have a charter granted under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C are eligible applicants for the PREP Program Allotment.



Funding: SB 1882 Operating Partners are subject to the statutorily-based funding caps described in each of the PREP Program's guidelines.



Applications: SB 1882 Operating Partner leaders will receive unique links to their applications, and they may also request an application link through this [form](#).



Written agreements: Since foundation school program (FSP) funding will flow to the partner district, SB 1882 Operating Partners must have a written agreement with the partner district to document how allotment funds generated through the partnership will be spent.

Eligibility Criteria: Adult Charter Schools



Adult charter schools that have a charter granted under TEC, §29.259 and Human Resources Code, §221.002 may participate in the PREP Mentorship Program only.

Adult charter schools that have a charter granted under TEC, §29.259 and Human Resources Code, §221.002 are ineligible to participate in the PREP Preservice Residency and PREP Grow Your Own Programs.



Note: TEC, §21.902 requires PREP preservice programs to place teacher candidates in prekindergarten through grade 12 classrooms.

Prior to applying, applicants must review the relevant sections of the Texas Education Code below aligned to their programs of interest.

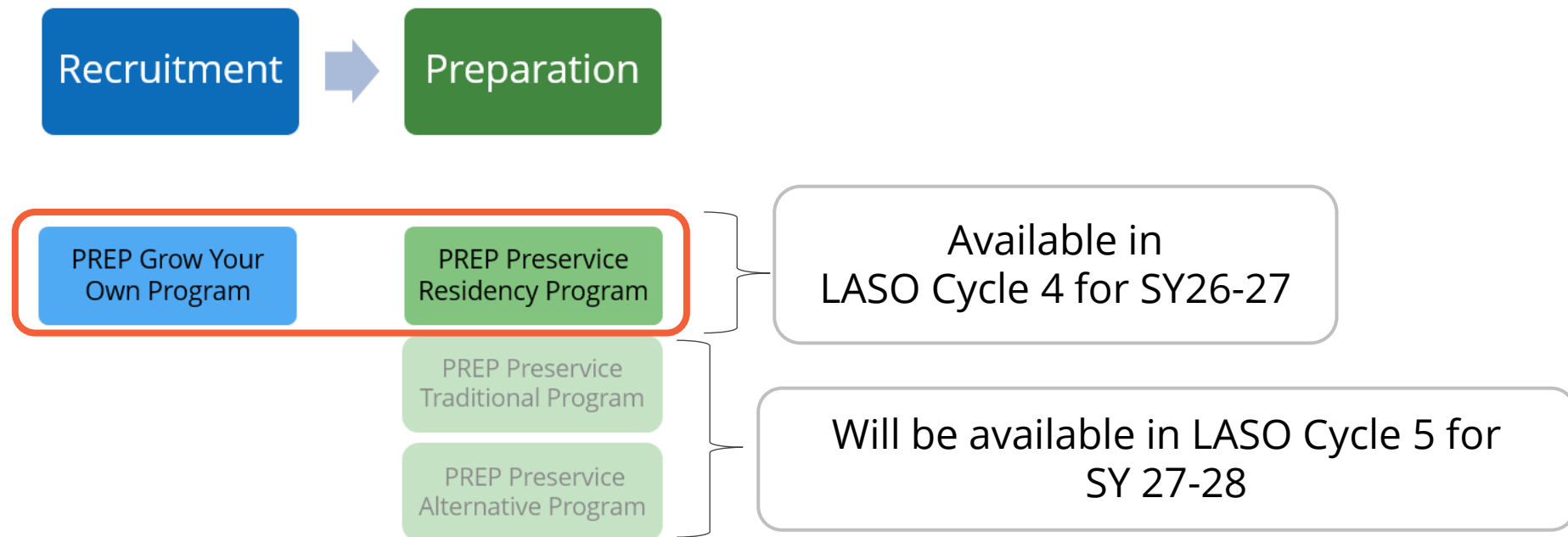
- New TEC, [§21.901](#)– PREP Definitions
- New TEC, [§21.902](#) – PREP Preservice Programs
- New TEC, [§21.904](#) – PREP Preservice Residency Program
- New TEC, [§21.906](#) – PREP Grow Your Own Program
- New TEC, [§21.907](#) – PREP Mentorship Program
- New TEC, [§21.909](#) – Program Standards and Performance Goals
- New TEC, [§48.157](#) – PREP Program Allotment

Note: TEA anticipates posting rules for the PREP Program Allotment for public comment during the 2025-26 school year, which would become effective prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year. TEA anticipates sharing specific dates related to rulemaking in the coming months.

In addition to meeting PREP Allotment assurances, school systems must agree to PREP Grow Your Own Program assurances:

- Read and abide by TEC §21.906 (PREP Grow Your Own Program)
- Read and abide by TAC sections related to the PREP Grow Your Own Program
- Form a **written agreement partnership** with an institution of higher education and educator preparation program as applicable by the 2026-2027 SY that supports
 - (A) **school system employees** who do not hold a teaching certificate in completing a bachelor's degree to enable the person to enroll in an educator preparation program and become a certified teacher while employed by the school system, and if applicable,
 - (B) **high school students** in completing career and technical education courses that help prepare the students to become classroom teachers
- Appoint a **school system representative** to engage in all required PREP Allotment & PREP Grow Your Own Program communications

Per TEC §21.906, “a school district or open-enrollment charter school may participate in a grow your own partnership program only if the district or school has been approved to participate in a **partnership preservice program**.”



To calculate allotments and monitor PREP Program implementation, TEA will require districts to submit certain information. Annually, school systems must, at minimum:

- Submit identification information of PREP Program participants (e.g., residents) in ECOS
- Submit campus placements in ECOS
- Report spending of the PREP Program Allotment in a format determined by TEA
- Ensure program participants, such as residents, beginning teachers, and mentors complete annual program perception surveys administered by TEA

**TEA will publish proposed SBEC and commissioner of education rules for the PREP Program Allotment in the coming months. Once rules are finalized, districts will submit a Verification of Participation From committing to the provisions within the new rules.*

Roles and Responsibilities



Role	Responsibilities
Board	Approve application and overall school system implementation throughout the 2026-27 school year (likely through 1 hour board meeting for all PREP)
Superintendent	Approve application; coordinate with school system leaders to ensure compliance with statute and rule
C-SUITE: CAO, SFO, CIO	Approve application; coordinate with appropriate staff on allocating funds and supporting school system programming
District leaders	Supporting/leading programming at the school system level, ensuring compliance with statute and rule. If opting into GYO technical assistance supports, attendance of quarterly webinars
Campus leaders	Supporting/leading PREP GYO programming at the campus level
Teachers	Teachers teaching high school CTE courses and implementing the program will need to ensure students are provided with authentic opportunities to practice teaching under the supervision of cooperating teacher(s)



In the PREP GYO Program application, school systems will be asked if they would like to receive **optional in-kind technical supports** to strengthen Grow Your Own planning and implementation.



If opting into the supports, school system points of contact will receive information for joining a **webinar** to learn more about them.



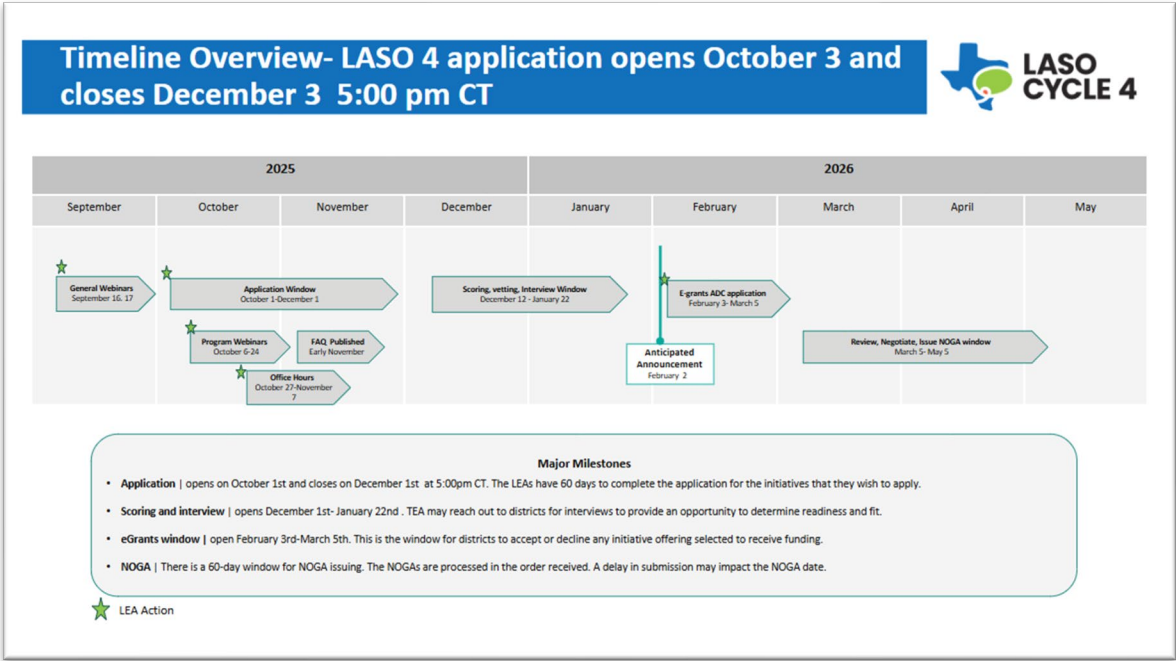
Path Forward

Since the PREP Program Allotment is **NOT a grant**, there are some differences in the steps and timelines **after the application submission** for awarding, verifying, and funding participation.

School systems participating in both LASO grants and LASO PREP Program Allotment are encouraged to compare the timelines and steps

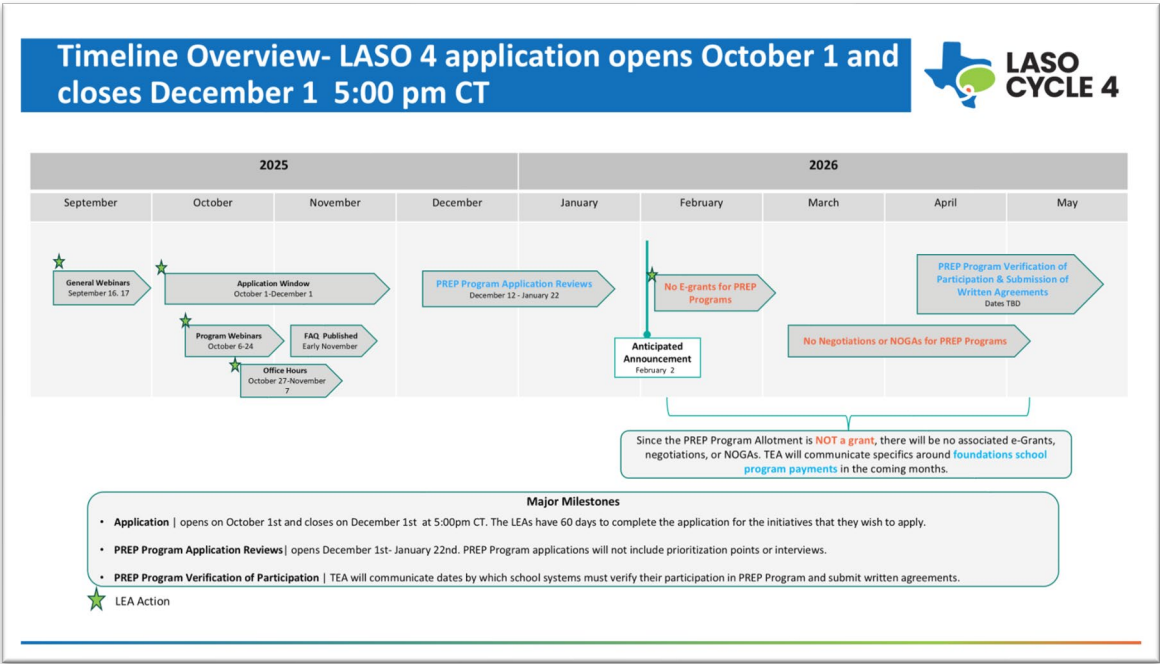


LASO Grants Timeline

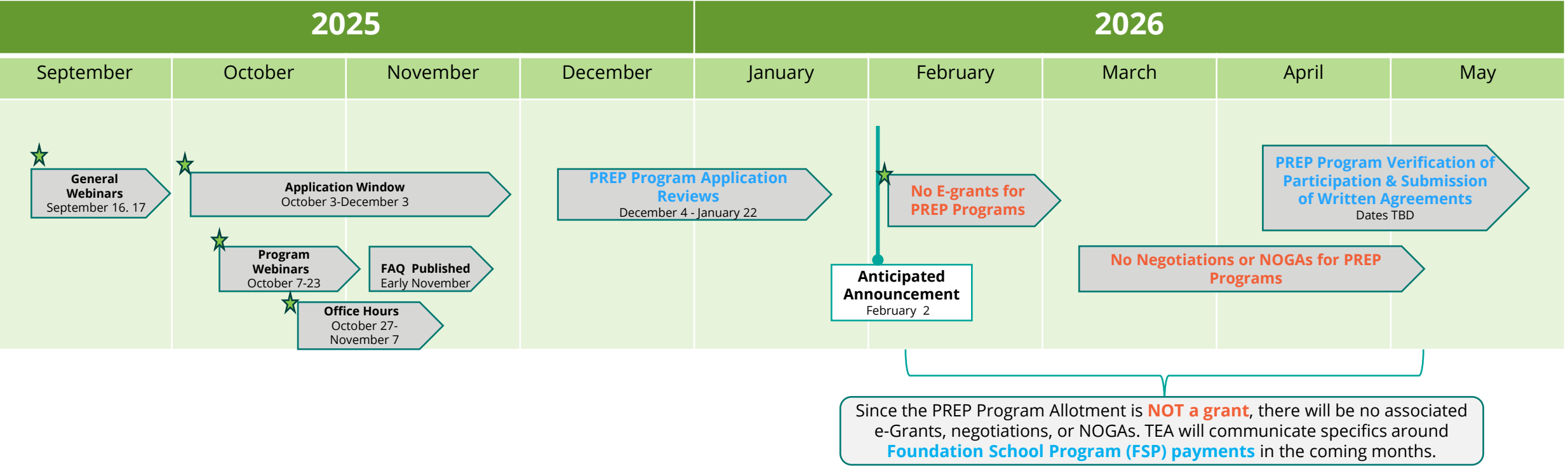


The LASO general webinar and grant webinars will explain this timeline.

LASO PREP Allotment Timeline



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



Major PREP Program Allotment 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.
- **PREP Program Application Reviews** | opens December 4th- January 22nd. PREP Program applications will not include prioritization points or interviews.
- **PREP Program Verification of Participation** | TEA will communicate dates by which school systems must verify their participation in PREP Program and submit written agreements.

PREP Program Allotment Verification of Participation Forms & Written Agreements



In the PREP Program Allotment preliminary award announcement, which TEA will send on February 2, 2026, TEA will communicate information and timelines for submitting Verification of Participation Forms and written agreements.

- For the PREP Program only, TEA will administer a **Verification of Participation Form** around the April to May timeframe, to all school systems that received a preliminary award notice.
 - School systems must submit their Verification of Participation Form to TEA by the dates requested.
 - School systems may decline their participation in the PREP Program Allotment via the Verification of Participation Form process.
 - School systems will report the number of estimated PREP Program participants (e.g., residents, beginning teachers) for each program for which they were approved.
 - School systems will review the PREP Program Allotment relevant sections of the Texas Administrative Code and assure compliance with those provisions.

PREP Program Allotment Written Agreements



School systems participating in the PREP Preservice Residency Program or the PREP Grow Your Own Program will need to submit **written agreements** to TEA by the dates requested. TEA will provide guidance and examples at a future date.

The Written Agreement of Partnership must:

- Articulate how the partnership will implement all TEC requirements pertaining to §§21.902 and 21.906 (Grow Your Own).
- Articulate that the partnership has read the proposed Commissioner of Education Rules for the applicable PREP Program and describes how it will implement those requirements.

Support for developing the Written Agreement:

- Once school systems have been approved to participate, TEA staff will provide guidance for submission of the written agreement.
- Guidance will include a template and several examples of a completed agreement.



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



TEA emailed unique application links to school system superintendents and operating partners on October 3 (if needed, school systems 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 or operating partner official to be accepted

To the Administrator Addressed: PREP Program Allotment



To the Administrator Addressed

Commissioner Mike Morath

1701 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1494 • 512 463-9734 • 512 463-9838 FAX • tea.texas.gov

DATE:	September 18, 2025
SUBJECT:	HB 2 Implementation: Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership Program Allotment
CATEGORY:	HB 2
NEXT STEPS:	Share with school system administrators and educator preparation program partners; register for PREP Program informational webinars

Overview

This correspondence provides guidance and timelines for the Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment.

House Bill 2, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature and signed into law in June 2025, established the PREP Program Allotment to strengthen the quality of teacher recruitment, preparation, and mentorship across the state. Participation in the PREP Program Allotment is optional for eligible districts and open-enrollment charters.

PREP Program Allotment Applications and Funding

The PREP Program Allotment provides funding for five partnership types, listed in the table below. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools may apply for funding for the PREP Preservice Residency Program, Grow Your Own Program, and the Mentor Program through the [LASO Cycle 4](#) process. Applications for the PREP Traditional and Alternative Preservice Programs will be available through LASO Cycle 5 in fall 2026.

TEA recently released a To the Administrator Addressed correspondence that you can access via on the [TAA webpage](#).

Questions?



Office Hours

Attend office hours for technical assistance or discussion with program teams

- October 28, 2025, 11:00-11:30 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
- For questions about PREP GYO, contact GYO@tea.texas.gov

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 systems internal teams to support the decision-making process on which sets of grants to apply for.

Register for our upcoming informational webinars.



Resources Available

- [Initiative One Pagers](#) provide preliminary grant eligibility and key commitments
- [Eligibility and Prioritization Guidance Doc](#) provides information to help determine the likelihood of being awarded
- [Initiative Selection Tool](#) Provides a Scenario map to guide selection of the right fitting initiative based on need
- [Role and Responsibilities Insight Tool](#) Identifies the types of responsibilities for each role and show where roles overlap across initiatives.

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

Thank you!