



# CSP Start-Up Grant Overview



# TEA CSP Start-Up Grant Contacts

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# CSP Start-Up Grant Session Goals

- Purpose
- Eligible Applicants
- Grant Processes
- Grant Timelines
- Allowable Use of Funds
- Application Highlights

## Purpose of the Charter Schools Program (CSP)



- A \$100 million grant was awarded to TEA by the USDE in the fall of 2020.
- The grant period runs from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2025.
- TEA awards funds to LEAs as subgrantees to open and prepare new charter schools and replicate/expand high quality charter schools.



# Purpose of the Texas Charter Schools Program



The **purpose** of the Texas Charter Schools Program is to support the **growth of high-quality charter schools** in Texas, especially those focused on **improving academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged students.**

## Eligible Applicants

# Eligible Applicants Must...

1

Be recommended by the commissioner and not vetoed by SBOE;

2

meet the federal definition of a charter school (ESSA);

3

never have received CSP funds under ESSA.



# Eligible Applicants

If the applicant is affiliated with or proposing to contract with a CMO, the applicant will have to disclose if:

- The CMO currently receives CSP funds directly from the USDE or not
- The CMO will or will not receive CSP funds directly from the USDE

**Note:** If the applicant is affiliated with or proposing to contract with a CMO that currently receives or will receive CSP funds directly from the USDE, TEA cannot issue a CSP Start-Up Grant award, even if the proposed charter school is authorized.

# Grant Processes

- Grantees will complete the CSP Grant application as part of the Generation 29 application. This application will be reviewed and there may be contingencies related to the grant application.
- If a charter is awarded, the applicant will submit two supplemental documents to the Grants Administration Division. These will be reviewed, and negotiations will take place.
- Once negotiations are complete, the grantee will receive their Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

## **The CSP Grant is a reimbursement grant.**

Grantees will incur expenses as outlined in their approved grant application and submit payment requests through the Expenditure Reporting system for reimbursement.

**Funds are not front-loaded to the grantee.**



## Grant Timelines

**Grant Start Date** – The date that an LEA can start incurring costs related to the grant.

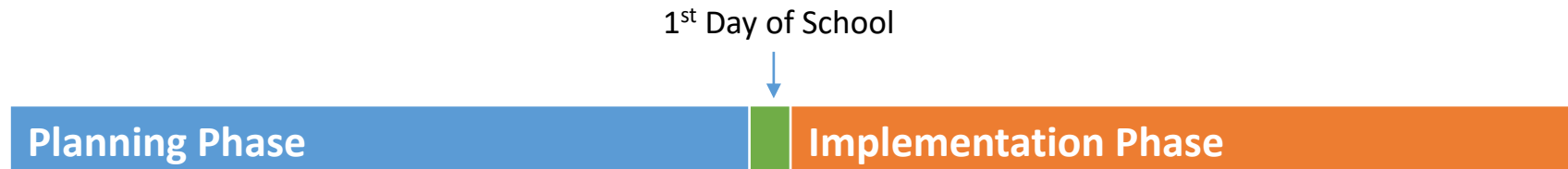
**NOGA Date** – The date that the NOGA is approved, and the LEA can start entering expenditures for reimbursement.

**Grant End Date** – The date by which the LEA must expend funds and utilize items/services purchased with grant funds.

## Planning Phase vs. Implementation Phase

**Planning Phase** – The period from the grant start date to the first day the campus starts serving students.

**Implementation Phase** – The period from the first day the school starts serving students to the end of the grant period.



# Planning vs. Implementation

Budgeted expenditures are tied to the TYPE of ACTIVITY not when the expenditure occurs.

Planning Activity

Implementation Activity

Some purchases that are allowable during the implementation phase may be purchased before the first day of school. These will still be budgeted as part of implementation. The phase in which a purchase is allowable is determined by the type of activity and not necessarily when the purchase is made.



# Planning vs. Implementation

Planning Activities are tied to the planning and design of the educational program, which may include:

Refinement of the desired educational results and of methods for measuring progress towards achieving the results; and

Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school.

# Planning vs. Implementation

Implementation Activities are tied to the implementation of the charter school and its educational program, which may include:

Informing the community about the school;

Acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies;

Acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and

Other initial operational costs that cannot be met from State or local sources.

# Planning vs. Implementation

Some activities are only allowable in the planning phase, some are only allowable in the implementation phase, and some are allowable in both.

Certain activities, such as payroll, are only allowable in the planning and **initial implementation** phase. The initial implementation phase is defined as up to the first 30 days after the first day of school.

## Allowable Uses of Funds



All costs associated with the CSP grant must meet the minimum threshold of being:

- **Necessary** – is the item needed for the start-up of the charter school?
- **Reasonable** – would a reasonable person spend that amount on that item? Would it withstand public scrutiny?
- **Allocable** – is the cost being incurred specifically for start-up and is the cost proportional to the benefit provided?
- **Allowable** – is the item allowed under this grant program?

# Allowable Costs – Planning Activities

Planning and design of the charter school's educational program

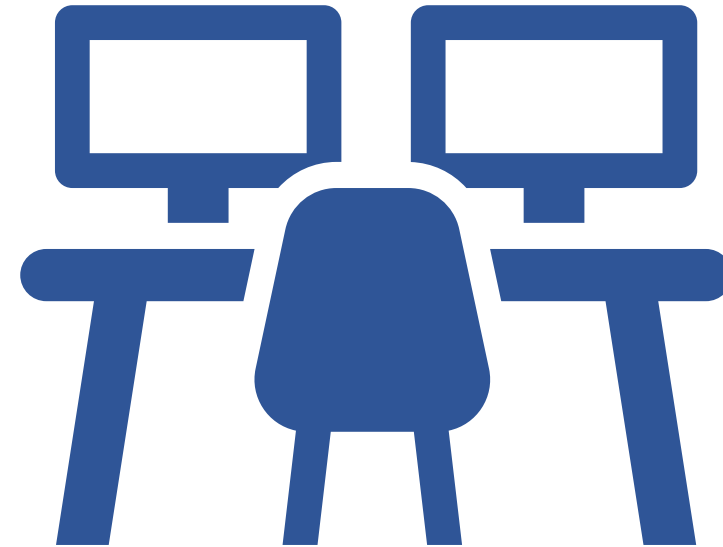
Professional development/training for teachers and staff

Special Education support



**One time start-up equipment purchases necessary to implement a charter school, which may include:**

- **Desks, chairs, computers;**
- **Equipment related to technology, physical education and art; and**
- **Playground equipment.**



# Allowable Costs for Implementation Activities



## *Non-consumable*

supplies and materials for start-up activities, including the following:

- Textbooks;
- Library books;
- Reading materials; and
- Teaching materials.

Installation costs associated with the following:

- Computers;
- Data systems;
- Networks; and
- Telephone systems.



# Allowable Costs for Implementation Activities



- One-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students



- Rental or occupancy costs for the school facility, up to the first 30 days of the initial implementation phase



- Costs associated with carrying out necessary renovations and minor facilities repairs

# Allowable Costs for Implementation Activities



- Financial management software and training



- Property insurance to cover equipment purchased with grant funds
- Other appropriate, non-sustained costs that cannot be supported from other sources

# Allowable Costs for Implementation Activities

Salaries are allowed for the following positions only: Teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel.

**However**, they are only allowed up to the first 30 days of the implementation phase.

The expenses must be associated with planning activities or implementation activities (i.e., as opposed to ongoing operations).





# Budgeting Allowable Costs

The CSP Grant funds will be divided into Planning Cost and Implementation Cost. Keep in mind the phase in which the expenditure or activity is allowed when creating the budget.

Program Budget Summary					
Description and Purpose		Source of Funds			
		Class/ Object Code	Planning Cost	Implementation Cost	Total Budgeted Cost
1	Payroll Costs	6100	\$ 114,910	\$ -	\$ 114,910
2	Professional and Contracted Services	6200	\$ 125,000	\$ 41,340	\$ 166,340
3	Supplies and Materials	6300	\$ 5,000	\$ 18,750	\$ 23,750
4	Other Operating Costs	6400	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000
5	Capital Outlay	6600	\$ -	\$ 580,000	\$ 580,000
6	Grand Total of Budgeted Costs :		\$ 254,910	\$ 645,090	\$ 900,000

**CSP grants support the planning, program design, and initial implementation of public charter schools.**

**One-time costs!**

## Unallowable Uses of Funds

# Unallowable Costs

- Field trips
- Hosting or sponsoring of conferences or advisory councils
- Costs of membership in any civic or community organization
- Salaries or contracted personnel beyond the first 30 days of the initial implementation phase of the charter school, which starts the day the school begins to serve students
- Debt service (lease-purchase)



# Unallowable Costs

- Rental or occupancy costs for the school facility beyond the first 30 days of the initial implementation phase
- Purchase or lease of land or real estate
- Construction
- Consumable instructional or other supplies and materials
- Accounting/bookkeeping services except for the purchase of accounting software to comply with FAR










# Unallowable Costs

- Annual audit services
- Ongoing food service
- Other property and liability insurance
- Interest on loans
- Deposits of any kind, such as security deposits or service deposits
- Religious instruction, materials, or insignia
- Extra-curricular activities such as UIL, competitions, athletic programs that are not part of the state-required P.E. program



# Is it Allowable?

Budgeted Expense	Allowable or Unallowable?	
The design and construction of a new, state-of-the-art building	Unallowable	
A passenger van to provide transportation for students	Allowable	
Technology and technology installation for every classroom	Allowable	
The salaries of clerical and custodial staff members during the planning phase	Unallowable	
Instructional supplies that are reusable ( i.e. textbooks) and training for staff to support implementation	Allowable	
Shirts, pens, pencils, and notepads with the school's logo and name printed on them	Unallowable	
The price of repairing the faulty HVAC system in the school building	Allowable	

## CSP Start-Up Grant Application Highlights



- **Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs)**
- **Narrative - Statutory Requirements**
  - Roles and Responsibilities
  - Parent and Community Engagement
  - Transportation
  - CSP Grant Budget
- **Narrative - Program Requirements**
  - Student Outcome Goals (SMART Goals)
  - Program Goals (SMART Goals)

## Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs)

If the applicant proposes to open the charter school in a [Qualified Opportunity Zone](#) the application scoring process will allow for the award of a priority point for applicants committed to serving students who would otherwise attend a school located in a QOZ.

If awarded a charter, applicants committed to opening their respective charter schools in a QOZ will be required to provide specific census tract numbers and other information on how they plan to serve students in these high-need areas.

## Narrative Responses – Statutory Requirements

<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<p>Describe the roles and responsibilities of the sponsoring entity, any partner organizations, and charter management organizations, as applicable, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities of such partners.</p>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<p>Describe how the board and applicant team have assessed and built parent and community demand for the proposed school. Discuss specific outreach strategies that were used.</p>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<p>Describe plans to support the ongoing use of effective parent, family, and community engagement and solicitation strategies to implement and operate the proposed charter school.</p>
<b>Student Transportation</b>	<p>Describe the plan for meeting the transportation needs of all students at the proposed charter school.</p>

## Narrative Responses – Statutory Requirements

<b>Proposed Use of CSP Funds</b>	Describe the eligible applicant's planned activities and expenditures of grant funds to open and prepare for the operation of the proposed charter school.
<b>Financial Sustainability</b>	Describe how the eligible applicant will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the grant period.
<b>CSP SMART Goals</b>	Identify three to five specific Student Outcome SMART Goals (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound) that will be achieved by end of the grant period, including progress measures for each goal.
<b>CSP SMART Goals</b>	Identify three to five specific Project Outcome SMART Goals that will be achieved by the end of the grant period, including progress measures for each goal.

# Questions?