

Request for Application

Program Guidelines

2025-2026 ESC State Gifted and Talented Grant

Authorized by General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 4,
89th Texas Legislature

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Introduction to the Program Guidelines

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) administers federal¹ and state grant awards to its subgrantees² to carry out a program. Such entities include primarily school systems (referred to as local educational agencies [LEAs] in statutes), including independent school districts and charter schools; education service centers (ESCs); and, to a lesser degree, institutions of higher education (IHEs), nonprofit organizations (NPOs), and other statutorily allowable organizations. The following Program Guidelines apply to all eligible subgrantees for the designated grant program.

The Program Guidelines, as part of the request for application (RFA), are to be used in conjunction with the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#) and any application instructions or other RFA requirements, as listed for the grant on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page. The Standard Application System (SAS) consists of Application Part 1 (PDF narrative schedules) and Application Part 2 (Excel budget schedules). An eligible applicant must submit both parts of the SAS to apply for funding, unless specifically delineated in these guidelines.

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 cross-referenced sections when preparing your application.

Errata Notices

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

¹ TEA is the grantee and pass-through entity for federal education funding awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). *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 pursuant to a subgrant or contract. (34 CFR §77.1) *Pass-through entity* is defined as a recipient or subrecipient that provides a subaward to a subrecipient (including lower tier subrecipients) to carry out part of a federal program. (2 CFR §200.1)

² *Subgrantee* is defined by TEA to be the same as a *subrecipient*, which is defined in 2 CFR §200.1 as an entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal award. The term does not include an individual that is a beneficiary or participant of the program. *Subgrantee* is defined in 34 CFR §77.1 as the legal entity to which a subgrant is awarded and that is accountable to the grantee for the use of the funds provided. For purposes of the request for application (RFA), TEA may use the terms *subgrantee*, *grantee*, *subrecipient*, and *applicant* synonymously.

Contact for Clarifying Information

Grant Program Contact

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Funding Contact

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U.S. Department of Education and/or State Appropriations

The following is provided in compliance with federal appropriations acts:

Category	Amount
Total funds available for this project	\$220,000
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	\$220,000

Grant Timeline

Due dates related to the grant, including reporting dates, are available in the Critical Events section listed on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page. Grantees are responsible for regularly monitoring the webpage for updated grant information and for meeting all due dates and other grant requirements.

Grant at a Glance

This section provides detailed information about the grant program.

Program Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

Program Goals

The goals are as follows:

1. To provide school systems the professional development and technical support needed to ensure their successful implementation of G/T programs that meet all requirements of Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.121 and §29.122 and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§ 89.1–89.3; 89.5
2. To provide school systems with support as specified by TEC §29.123
3. To act as liaison between the Curriculum Division of TEA and school systems, disseminating information and training on statewide initiatives developed by TEA

Program Description

Professional in-service and preservice development and review activities are permitted under ESC State Gifted and Talented. Specifically, professional development may be provided as follows:

1. To develop and implement a program that does the following:
 - a) Prepares teachers in all the essential areas of gifted education, including nature and needs, assessment of needs, and curriculum and instruction (TAC §89.2(1))
 - b) Includes information on instructional materials, programs, strategies, and approaches derived from scientifically based research in gifted education
 - c) Includes instruction in the use of screening, diagnostic, and instructional assessments and other scientifically based procedures that effectively identify and serve students who may have unique needs because of their intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or academic gifts (TEC §29.121)
 - d) Provides training in specific aspects of gifted education as that training is provided to the ESC by the Curriculum Division of TEA, including the Texas Performance Standards Project, Equity in Gifted Education, the G/T Teacher Toolkits, and other statewide initiatives as they are developed
 - e) Provides an equitable opportunity for school systems to meet the requirements of TEC §29.121–§29.123

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- f) Is provided by eligible professional development providers
2. To develop and implement a program for counselors and administrators that does the following:
 - a. Provides a foundational understanding for educators in nature and needs of gifted students and program options for gifted students (TAC §89.2(3))
 - b. Is provided by eligible professional development providers
 3. To develop and implement a program for school system gifted education coordinators that does the following:
 - a. Informs them of a school system’s responsibilities to uphold laws and rules concerning education for gifted students (TEC §7.028)
 - b. Informs them of changes in laws and rules concerning education for gifted students
 - c. Is provided by eligible professional development providers
 4. To develop and implement a program of training for others involved in education for gifted students, including families, community members, and school board members, that does the following:
 - a. Informs them of LEAs’ responsibilities to uphold laws and rules concerning education for gifted students (TEC §7.028)
 - b. Informs them of changes in laws and rules concerning education for gifted students
 - c. Assists them in understanding and supporting the education of gifted students
 - d. Is provided by eligible professional development providers
 5. Technical assistance for school systems and schools is permitted under ESC State Gifted and Talented. Specifically, technical assistance may be provided as follows:
 - a. To support school systems in accomplishing tasks to design and implement a program of education for gifted students that accomplishes the following:
 - b. Is derived from research that is scientifically based
 - c. Meets the requirements of the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students
 - d. Includes selecting assessments and equitably identifying gifted students

- e. Identifies eligible professional development providers to help prepare teachers to teach gifted students
6. To inform school systems of statewide initiatives and changes in procedures, laws, and rules concerning education of gifted students
 7. To expand opportunities to students served by eligible school system

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligibility List

An eligibility list is posted by regional ESC in the Application and Support Information section of the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) page.

Shared Services Arrangement

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

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed.

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.

Direct Administrative Costs

TEA limits the amount of direct administrative costs for this grant program to no more than 15% of the total grant award.

Indirect Costs

For this grant program, the grantee may claim a maximum for allowable indirect costs equal to its current approved unrestricted indirect cost rate.

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 not permitted for this grant.

Application Requirements and Assurances

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)
- Texas Grant Management Standards (requirements defined by the state for regional ESCs and limited other applicants)

Statutory Requirements

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

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.

TEA Program Requirements

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

Program Guidelines

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements. The applicant must comply with each of these requirements in the application to be considered for funding:

1. Attendance at two or more annual agency update meetings
2. Dissemination of information and products to districts
3. Provision of the following training:
 - a. At least three 30-hour G/T foundational training that complies with 19 TAC §89.2(1)
 - b. At least eight six-hour G/T annual update sessions that comply with TAC §89.2(3)
 - c. At least one six-hour G/T counselor or administrator training session that complies with TAC §89.2(4)
 - d. At least two six-hour Texas Performance Standards Project training session
4. Documentation including flyer, attendance record, evaluations, minutes, as appropriate from the following:
 - a. G/T coordinator informational meetings
 - b. any activities to support districts in the implementation of gifted/talented services
 - c. 30-hour gifted/talented foundational training to districts
 - d. six-hour gifted/talented update training to districts
5. Submission of final evaluation of G/T services no later than September 30 of program year
6. Final evaluation of services must include evidence of direct services and outcomes
7. The grant program will be funded by reimbursement once the NOGA has been issued and the grantee submits payment requests through the Expenditure Reporting (ER) system. See [Expenditure Reporting](#). The grantee is required to regularly request payment for allowable expenditures as grant program requirements are carried out.

Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS)

See the [TxGMS](#) for detailed requirements. In general, the TxGMS apply to regional ESCs and limited other applicants. The TxGMS do not apply to school districts or open-enrollment charter schools.

In general, the TxGMS require state-funded grants to follow the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG), 2 CFR part 200.

Program-Specific Assurances

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

The program-specific assurances for this grant program are listed in the Application Part 1.

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.

Note regarding travel costs, if allowable per guidance below: Any personnel approved in this grant must be reimbursed for travel according to the applicant's written policies and procedures; however, reimbursement may not exceed State of Texas mileage allowance, General Services Administration (GSA) hotel rate, and per diem rate existing in the current Texas State Appropriations Act. The state travel guidelines require only reimbursement of actual costs paid and, therefore, prohibit per diem payments to travelers without reconciliation to actual costs expended. Note: Contractor travel is paid as it is described in the individual contract, not to exceed the State rates, and may or may not be delineated out specifically in the contract.

Allowable activities and use of funds for this grant include only the following:

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

- Providing 30-hour gifted/talented foundational training to districts
- Providing six-hour gifted/talented update training to districts
- Providing six-hour counselor/administrator gifted/talented training to districts
- Providing six-hour counselor/administrator gifted/talented update training to districts
- Providing Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) training to districts
- Providing gifted/talented coordinator informational meetings
- Attending gifted/talented TEA/ESC specialist meetings (two required annually)
- Providing any activities to support districts in the implementation of gifted/talented services
- Payroll costs
- Professional and contracted services
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials
- Debt services (lease liabilities for terms greater than 12 months) — allowable costs include:
 - Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) — Principal Costs (6514)
 - Subscription-based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) — Interest Costs (6526)
- In-state travel as necessary to meet the program requirements of this grant. Travel costs must follow the travel guidance provided at the beginning of this Allowable Activities and Use of Funds section.

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

Stipends for Non-Employees Other Than Those Included in 6419

Stipends for non-employees other than those included in 6419 may be funded under the grant program. Documentation for stipends for non-employees must be maintained locally and made available to TEA upon request.

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.

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:
 - Capital Lease Liability — Principal Costs (6512)
 - Capital Lease Liability — Interest Costs (6522)
 - Interest on Debt Costs (6523)
- Audit services for state-funded grants
- Out-of-State Travel
- Travel for Students to Conferences (Does Not Include Field Trips)
- Educational Field Trips
- Non-Employee Costs for Conferences
- Travel Costs for Officials such as Executive Director, Superintendent, or Board Members
- Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization
- Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences
- Advisory Council
- Capital Outlay
- Any activity not specified above in the Allowable Activities and Use of Funds section

Performance Measures

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

1. Number of TEA/ESC G/T Specialist meetings attended
2. Number of complete 30-hour G/T foundational training sessions that comply with 19 TAC §89.2(1) provided to teachers
3. Number of teachers attending 30-hour G/T foundational training sessions that comply with 19 TAC §89.2(1)
4. Number of six-hour G/T training sessions that comply with 19 TAC §89.2(4) provided to counselors and/or administrators
5. Number of counselors or administrators attending six-hour G/T training as required by 19 TAC §89.2(4) through ESC services
6. Number of six-hour G/T annual update sessions that comply with 19 TAC §89.2(3) provided to teachers
7. Number of teachers completing the six-hour G/T annual update as required by 19 TAC §89.2(3) through ESC services
8. Number of Texas Performance Standards training sessions provided to constituents
9. Number of constituents attending Texas Performance Standards Project training sessions
10. Number of G/T Coordinator informational meetings held for constituents
11. Number of constituents attending G/T Coordinator informational meetings
12. Number of districts provided with G/T support
13. Percentage of overall G/T Services budget represented by this grant

Attachments

There are two types of attachments that may be required to be submitted with your application:

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.

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.