

Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC)

# Program Guidelines

## 2026-2028 Local Accountability Plan Grant

### **IDC Application Due Date**

11:59 p.m. Central Time, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Authorized by General Appropriations Act, House Bill 8, Article III, 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.



# Contents

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- Introduction to the Program Guidelines ..... 3**
  - Application Submission Through eGrants..... 4
  - Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines ..... 4
  - Errata Notices ..... 5
  - Overview of IDC Process ..... 5
  - Email Bulletins..... 5
- Contact for Clarifying Information ..... 5**
  - Grant Program Contact ..... 5
  - Funding Contact ..... 6
- US Department of Education and/or State Appropriations ..... 6**
- IDC Timeline..... 7**
- IDC at a Glance..... 8**
  - Authorizing Legislation..... 8
  - Purpose of Program ..... 8
  - Eligible Applicants ..... 9
    - Shared Services Arrangement ..... 9
  - Application Funding ..... 9
  - Supplement, Not Supplant..... 10
  - Limitation of Administrative Funds..... 10
  - Direct Administrative Costs ..... 10
  - Indirect Costs ..... 10
  - Pre-Award Costs..... 10
  - IDC Application Requirements and Assurances ..... 10
    - Statutory Requirements ..... 10
    - TEA Program Requirements ..... 11
    - Program-Specific Assurances ..... 12
  - Program Elements..... 13
  - Description of Program ..... 13
  - Qualifications and Experience ..... 14
  - Performance and Evaluation Measures ..... 14
  - Limits on Contracted Evaluators ..... 15
  - Allowable Activities and Use of Funds..... 15
    - General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds..... 15
    - Other Allowable Operating Costs Requiring Specific Approval in the Grant Application (6400)..... 16
  - Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds ..... 17
- Attachments ..... 18**



# Program Guidelines

- Required Fiscal-Related Attachments..... 18
- Required Program-Related Attachments..... 18
- Optional Program-Related Attachments ..... 18
- Adding Attachments ..... 19
  - General Instructions ..... 19
- IDC Scoring and Review..... 20**



## Introduction to the Program Guidelines

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TEA, as the pass-through entity<sup>1</sup>, is the grantee<sup>2</sup> from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and TEA awards subgrants to non-federal entities<sup>3</sup> 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 subgrantees<sup>4</sup>. 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. The Standard Application System (SAS) consists of all schedules (i.e., forms) to be completed in order for the applicant to be eligible for funding. The application to which these guidelines and instructions refer must be submitted electronically through the eGrants system.

For applicants selected for funding, all guidelines and instructions will be incorporated by reference into the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

### Requirement for Username and Password

To access eGrants and apply for this grant, you must have access to the [TEA Login \(TEAL\)](#). Follow these steps to apply for usernames and passwords on TEAL:

1. Visit the [TEA Login \(TEAL\)](#) page of the TEA website. Select [Request New User Account](#) to begin the process of applying for a TEAL account online.
2. Once you have been assigned a TEA Login (TEAL) account, log into TEAL and under Self-Service select My Application Accounts.
3. The My Accounts tab will open. Select Request New Account, then find eGrants in the list and follow the instructions to submit your request.

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<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> 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)

<sup>3</sup> 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)

<sup>4</sup> 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.

## Application Submission Through eGrants

Submit the application for these grant programs electronically through the TEA eGrants system. Refer to the General and Fiscal Guidelines for more specific information about the eGrants application process.

- Applications must be submitted as follows:
- Those submitted by public LEAs must be signed electronically by the superintendent of the school district or another LEA representative with the status of Grantee Official in eGrants.
- Applications submitted by regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) must be signed electronically by the executive director or another ESC representative with the status of Grantee Official in eGrants.
- Applications submitted by open-enrollment charter schools must be signed electronically by the chief operating officer of the school or another charter representative with the status of Grantee Official in eGrants.
- Campuses and campus charter schools must apply through their public school district, and the application must be certified electronically by the superintendent or another LEA representative with the status of Grantee Official in eGrants.

**\*ATTENTION: DO NOT OPEN OR ENTER THE BUDGET SCHEDULES IN EGRANTS.** Inputting a budget into the BS6001 and its associated budget schedules will result in submission errors. Submitting the budget is unnecessary for the initial application of this competitive IDC Grant Opportunity. Instead, applicants must utilize the Request for Grant Funds section of the PS3014 schedule to outline their proposed grant budget. Upon grant award, selected applicants will need to finalize the BS6001 and supporting budget schedules during the negotiation process. If the BS6001 is opened in error during the initial submission it must be saved with a zero-dollar balance to successfully submit the application.

## 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.

## Overview of IDC Process

The following steps provide a high-level overview of the process for responding to Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC), including submitting an IDC application, and being selected for funding:

1. TEA publishes IDC application in eGrants and supporting documents on the [TEA Grant Opportunities webpage](#).
2. Eligible applicants submit IDC application, and any required attachments to TEA by the specified deadline.
3. IDC 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. *For IDC applicants selected for funding, the IDC application will serve as the grant application. This eliminates the need for selected applicants to submit a separate grant application.*
6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the IDC application.
7. Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

\*Please note. The Letter of Interest competition or LOI has been given a new name of Informal Discretionary Competition or IDC. The process for selecting and awarding applications for this type of competition has not changed.

## Email Bulletins

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), GovDelivery Bulletins.

## Contact for Clarifying Information

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### Grant Program Contact

Melanie Robinson, Director of Policy and Operations  
Department of Authorizing and Policy  
Melanie.Robinson@tea.texas.gov  
Phone: (512) 463-7198

## Funding Contact

Michael Kuntz, Grant Manager  
Grants Administration Division  
[Michael.kuntz@tea.texas.gov](mailto:Michael.kuntz@tea.texas.gov)  
Phone: (512) 936-6366

## US Department of Education and/or State Appropriations

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The following is provided in compliance with the US Department of Education Appropriations Act:

Category	Amount
Total funds available for this project	\$3,400,000
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	\$3,400,000

## IDC 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
April 27, 2026	IDC application available <b>in eGrants</b>
May 13, 2026	Webinar provided by program staff at 10:00 a.m., Central Time. Register here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1ghJ8i9PTf-BIR-nHJz2Sw">https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1ghJ8i9PTf-BIR-nHJz2Sw</a>
May 15, 2026	Recorded Webinar available on the <a href="#">TEA Grant Opportunities</a> page and the <a href="#">Local Accountability System</a> page.
May 22, 2026	Last day to submit FAQs to TEA Grant Program contact the Local Accountability Team at <a href="mailto:las@tea.texas.gov">las@tea.texas.gov</a> (List the grant title in the subject line.)
May 29, 2026	FAQs posted to <a href="#">TEA Grant Opportunities</a> page
June 26, 2026	Due date for the IDC application, which must be submitted <b>via eGrants</b> . The IDC application must be received by the TEA by 11:59 <b>p.m., Central Time</b> . See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a> , <b>LOI Application Due Date and Time</b>
June 26, 2026- July 28, 2026	IDC review period See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a> , <b>LOI Review Process</b>
July 29, 2026	Anticipated award announcement
July 29, 2026	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a> , <b>Grant Period</b>
January 31, 2028	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding)
April 30, 2028	Ending date of grant (if selected for funding) See <a href="#">General and Fiscal Guidelines</a> , <b>Grant Period</b>

## IDC at a Glance

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This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the grant program.

### Authorizing Legislation

Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.0544(f), as added by HB 8, 89th Texas Legislature, Special Session 2, 2025.

TEC, §39.0544(f) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the agency shall establish a grant program to assist at least one school district in each education service center region in developing a local accountability plan that complies with the requirements of this section.

### Purpose of Program

House Bill (HB) 22, passed by the 85th Texas Legislature in 2017, established the Local Accountability System (LAS) to allow districts and open-enrollment charter schools to develop local accountability plans for their campuses. Local accountability plans can capture and showcase outcomes aligned with locally determined needs and strengths.

The LAS is a district-wide initiative through which districts and open-enrollment charter schools develop a plan to evaluate the performance of their campuses locally. LAS seek to: 1) engage the community and district in establishing locally relevant accountability measures; 2) provide parents, families, and communities with detailed information about local school performance and progress over time; 3) continuously improve student performance and preparedness for post-secondary success.

The Local Accountability Plan Grant provides assistance to school systems in developing a local accountability plan that complies with the requirements outlined in Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.0544. This program is authorized by TEC §39.0544(f), as added by HB 8, 89th Texas Legislature, which states: *From money appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the agency shall establish a grant program to assist at least one school district in each education service center region in developing a local accountability plan that complies with the requirements of this section.*

The Local Accountability Plan Grant will 1) provide school systems with funding to support the development and implementation of local accountability plans, including resources for LAS planning activities such as data management, professional development, stakeholder engagement, data collection tools, and innovative initiatives aimed at continuous improvement of student performance, and 2) provide targeted technical assistance from qualified Technical Advisors with demonstrated expertise in local accountability system frameworks, approaches, and strategies.

Local accountability plans are generally implemented within a two-year framework. The first year is dedicated to planning activities, gathering community input, and collecting baseline data. The second year focuses on plan implementation, approval by the governing board, approval by the Texas

Education Agency (TEA), and ongoing data collection. Data collected during the second year is subsequently used to inform campus local accountability ratings. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools that have already gathered community input and established baseline data for their local accountability plan components may proceed directly to the second year of implementation.

## Eligible Applicants

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Eligibility for Funding. The eligible applicants are:

- School districts and open-enrollment charter schools

## Shared Services Arrangement

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

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed for this grant program.

## Application Funding

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

It is anticipated that a range of 15-25 applicants will be awarded a range of \$136,000 to \$225,000 each\*, with final funding amounts dependent on the number and quality of applications, the feasibility and monetary efficiency of the applicant's budget plan, and at the discretion of the TEA program area\*\*. Applicants may be awarded on a proportional share of their originally submitted budget.

*\*Should additional funding become available for this program, the agency may fund qualifying awardees additional amounts till all funds are exhausted.*

*\*\*In addition to this funding, a TEA-approved provider will deliver targeted technical assistance through qualified Technical Advisors with demonstrated expertise in local accountability system frameworks, strategies, and implementation approaches.*

## Selection of Applicants for Funding

One award will be issued to the highest-scoring applicant in each ESC region. Any remaining funds will be awarded to additional applicants in rank order according to review scores.

## 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 10% of the total grant award.

### Indirect Costs

For this state-funded grant, the grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to the lesser of its current, approved unrestricted 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.

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Administrative Costs.

**NOTE:** Administrative funds include **both** direct administrative costs **and** allowable indirect costs.

## Pre-Award Costs

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

Pre-award costs are not permitted for this grant.

## IDC Application Requirements and Assurances

This section identifies the types of requirements in which applicants must comply to be eligible for funding:

### 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.

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements. Applicants must address within the application how they will achieve the following:

1. Summary of Project
  - a. The applicant will show in the project proposal how the local accountability plan drives improved student outcomes and aligns with the school system's mission, vision, and goals. **Describe the rationale for initiating a local accountability plan, including how it will drive improved student outcomes, and align with the school system's mission, vision, and goals.**
2. Goals, Objectives, and Strategies
  - a. The applicant will describe how the goals and objectives will be used to define the program. **Describe the major goals and objectives of the proposed program.**
  - b. The applicant will describe strategies to meet the goals and objectives of the program. **Detail any strategies that will be implemented to meet those goals and objectives.**
3. Performance and Evaluation Measures of the Grant Program
  - a. The applicant describes the performance management routines to ensure progress monitoring to drive achievement of grant outcomes. **Describe the performance management routines that will be developed to ensure progress monitoring will drive the achievement of predetermined grant outcomes.**
4. Qualification and Experience for Key Personnel
  - a. The applicant describes the qualification and experience of an existing staff member who will be responsible for this program. **Describe the qualifications and experience of the existing staff member responsible for this program. Include information about their experience with leadership, project management, problem-solving, the state accountability system, and engaging with the community to support educational outcomes.**
5. Budget Narrative
  - a. The applicant will describe in its proposal the project budget and how this will meet the needs and goals of the program, including staffing, project design, and resources needed to support the implementation of the grant. **Describe how the proposed budget**

**will meet the needs and goals of the program, including staffing, project design, and resources needed to support the implementation of the grant.**

6. Parent and Community Involvement

- a. The applicant will describe the plan to engage families and the community to gather input to inform components in the local accountability plan. **Describe how families and community members will be actively involved in providing input on the components to include in the local accountability plan and how family engagement will be measured.**

7. Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for Local Accountability Plan Anticipated Components

- a. The applicant describes existing programs and measures that may be included in the local accountability plan. **Describe how existing programs and measurement tools may be included as components in the local accountability plan. Include the grade level(s) these are currently used in and current baseline data.**
- b. The applicant describes the anticipated components to be included in the local accountability plan from new programs and resources. **Describe how new programs and measurement tools may be included in the local accountability plan. Include the grade level(s) these would be used in and the anticipated baseline data collection date.**

8. Sustainability of Project

- a. The applicant describes how the program will sustain after the grant period. **Describe how the program will be sustained beyond the life of the grant.**

## Program-Specific Assurances

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

The program-specific assurances for this grant program can be found on the [TEA Grant Opportunities](#) and in the eGrants application. Refer to Schedule PS3013 - Program Plan.

Applicants must assure the following in the application:

1. The applicant assures that they have read the Local Accountability System Technical Guide: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/local-accountability-system-guide-2022.pdf>.
2. The applicant assures that they agree to participate in reoccurring meetings with the technical assistance provider who will assist with program requirements and ensure the plan adheres to Texas Education Code (TEC) §39.0544 and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.1003.
3. The applicant assures they will prepare a local accountability plan for TEA approval. The plan will be in effect for a 4-year cycle. The plan submission for those on the typical two-year process will submit the LAS plan to TEA by the last week of September 2027. The plan submission for those who have collected community input, baseline data, and choose to forgo

the planning year will submit the LAS Plan for approval by the last week of February 2026. Districts and open-enrollment charter schools must present a well-structured local accountability plan that meets the standards of acceptable or above as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) on pages 18-19.

4. The applicant assures that the created local accountability plan will:
  - Engage the community and district in establishing locally relevant accountability measures;
  - Provide parents, families, and communities with detailed information about local school performance and progress over time; and
  - Continuously improve student performance and preparedness for post-secondary success.
5. The applicant provides assurance 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.
6. The applicant provides assurances to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA program requirements as noted in the 2026-2028 Local Accountability Plan Grant Program Guidelines.
7. The applicant provides assurances to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2026-2028 Local Accountability Plan Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
8. 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 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 level AA.
9. 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.

## Program Elements

### Description of Program

Grantees must prepare a local accountability plan for TEA approval. The plan will be in effect for a 4-year cycle. The plan submission for those on the typical two-year process will submit the LAS plan to TEA by the last week of September 2027. The plan submission for those who have collected community input, baseline data, and choose to forgo the planning year will submit the LAS Plan for approval by the last week of February 2026.

# Program Guidelines

Districts and open-enrollment charter school must present a well-structured local accountability plan that meets the standards of acceptable or above as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) on pages 18-19.

The local accountability plan must:

- Engage the community and district in establishing locally relevant accountability measures
- Provide parents, families, and communities with detailed information about local school performance and progress over time
- Continuously improve student performance and preparedness for post-secondary success.

Through the integration of these criteria, the recipient selection process is designed to foster a holistic and inclusive approach to creating a local accountability system to drive improved student outcomes.

## Qualifications and Experience

The applicant agrees to provide data on the qualifications and experience of the existing or future staff members, as required per the program guidelines as follows:

- Leadership and project management experience.
- Experience with problem-solving and finding innovative solutions
- Experience with state accountability system
- Experience engaging with the community to support educational outcomes

## Performance and Evaluation Measures

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

### Family Engagement

- 10% annual increase over baseline in family engagement as determined by local accountability plan

### Student Outcomes

- 5% annual increase over baseline in local accountability ratings.

### Districts and Open-Enrollment Charter Schools doing the two-year planning process

- Submit a detailed community engagement plan for obtaining input for components to include in the Local Accountability Plan by January 2027. Include mechanism for measuring family engagement and baseline data.
- Submit a completed [Local Accountability System Planning Tool Part I](#) by the last week of May 2027. Part I must meet a level 4 or 5 on each element in the included rubric.

# Program Guidelines

- Submit a completed [Local Accountability System Planning Tool Part II](#) by the last week of July 2027. Part II must meet a level 4 or 5 on each element in the included rubric.
- Submit the complete Local Accountability System Plan for TEA approval. The plan must meet all requirements as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) and meet the Acceptable rating on the Plan Rubric, as listed on pages 18-19, by the last week of September 2027 including documentation of board approval.
- Submit local accountability ratings in the first week of July 2028 on the provided TEA excel sheet.

## Districts and Open-Enrollment Charter Schools who have collected community input and baseline data and will only be doing the second year

- Submit a detailed community engagement plan indicating completed activities by the last week of December 2026. Include mechanism for measuring family engagement and baseline data.
- Submit a completed [Local Accountability System Planning Tool Part I and Part II](#) by the last week of December 2026. Both Part I and Part II must meet a level 4 or 5 on each element in the included rubric.
- Submit a completed Local Accountability System Plan for TEA approval. The plan must meet all requirements as listed in the [Local Accountability Technical Guide](#) and meet the Acceptable rating on the Plan Rubric as listed on pages 18-19 by the last week of February 2026 including documentation of board approval.
- Submit local accountability ratings in the first week of July 2027 on the provided TEA excel sheet.
- Submit the local accountability ratings in the first week of July 2028 on the provided TEA excel sheet.

## Limits on Contracted Evaluators

Applicants should make every effort to ensure that contracted evaluators be 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

Include from the following list any applicable activities and any other general uses of funds allowed for the grant program. If programmatic allowable activities are more specific, as appropriate use that language instead. If limitations apply, include them (e.g., specific payroll positions, required contracts, etc.).

- Payroll costs
- Hiring/funding 1.0 full-time employee (FTE) to manage the local accountability system planning process
- Costs associated with the development of all requirements of the grant
- Professional and contracted services
- Consumable and durable supplies and materials
- Local Accountability System planning expenditures for plan creation and component data management
- Educator training
- Community engagement activities
- Data collection tools

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

### **Out-of-State Travel**

Out-of-state travel costs are not allowable for this grant program.

### **Travel for Students to Conferences (Does Not Include Field Trips)**

Costs for travel for students to conferences may not be funded under this grant program.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips may not be funded under this grant program.

### **Stipends for Non-Employees Other Than Those Included in 6419**

Stipends for non-employees other than those included in 6419 may not be funded under this grant program.

### **Non-Employee Costs for Conferences**

Non-employee costs for conferences may not be funded under this grant program.

### **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 not be funded under this grant program.

## **Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization**

The cost of membership in any civic or community organization may not be funded under this grant program.

## **Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences**

Conferences may not be hosted or sponsored under this grant program.

## **Advisory Council**

An advisory council may be funded under this grant program. Only the following types of advisory council costs may be allowable:

- Parent Advisory Council focused on the components of a Local Accountability Plan
- Community Advisory Council focused on the components of a Local Accountability Plan

## **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
- Field Trips
- Stipends for Non-Employees
- 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

## Attachments

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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.

There are **no required** program-related attachments for this program.

### Optional Program-Related Attachments

The following are optional attachments for priority points to be awarded to applicants:

- **Evidence of Innovation Office (5 points).** The school system must have hired a school transformation or innovation officer to support the school system’s planning process. The applicant may attach either a copy or a hyperlink (URL) to the school system’s organization chart highlighting the eligible position.
- **Evidence of Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) (5 points).** The school system must have a TIA program fully approved. The applicant may attach a copy of their TIA status.
- **Evidence of Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) Participation (5 points).** The school system must have been invited to engage in the 2026-2027 Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) grant and be actively participating. Active participation includes submitting signed assurances to the TEA by May 29, 2026. The applicant may attach a copy of the signed assurances submitted to the Agency.
- **Evidence of Campus 2025 A-F Accountability Ratings meeting standards and not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements (5 points).** The school system must have all campuses meeting academic accountability standards as indicated on the 2025 accountability ratings. The applicant may attach a statement that their District, or Open-enrollment Charter School, 2025 A-F Accountability Listing meet standards and are not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements.

## Adding Attachments

The instructions in the following sections describe how to attach files to an eGrants application, if applicable.

### General Instructions

The size of each attachment cannot exceed 10MB. If you have a larger file, use a different scanning setting or zip the file to make it take up less space.

The only supported browser is Google Chrome. If you are using another browser, please change to Google Chrome before attaching files.

Documents only need to be attached once. Do not attach duplicate documents when completing an amendment. Remove an existing attached document prior to attaching a new version.

### Naming Attachments

Name the files you are going to attach with no spaces (for example, 501C3letter.doc or 5013C\_letter.doc) and no special characters. Use a meaningful name that identifies the specific document.

Make sure that each attachment has a valid extension (.pdf, .doc, .rtf, .xls, .bmp, .txt, .docx, .xlsx).

Note that attachments with very long names may not be able to be uploaded. If you have difficulty, try renaming the file and starting over.

### Scanning Documents

If a document must be scanned to create an electronic copy, use the following hints to ensure that the document size is as small as possible:

- Use an OCR or DPI setting of 200 DPI.
- Scanned files must be in PDF format.

### Zipping Files

If your files are too large, add them to a zip file to save space (download a free version of [WinZip](#) and find instructions on creating zip files).

### Attaching Files to an eGrants Application

1. Ensure that the document is saved on your computer, using the naming instructions above.
2. On the grant application's Table of Contents page, select Attach File.
3. Select the appropriate radio button for a TEA Defined Attachment or an Optional Attachment.
4. Select the Browse button. A standard Windows browser appears. Find the file.

5. Select Attach.
6. Confirm the document title appears under Documents Submitted in This Version; refresh the page if necessary. If the attachment does not appear, you may have to rename your document with a shorter name and start over.
7. Repeat this process to attach all your documents.

## IDC Scoring and Review

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This section provides information on the scoring and review of IDC applications.

### IDC Review and Funding Criteria

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), *LOI Review Criteria*

Application Scoring Rubric		
Each section rated 1-5		
<b>1- Needs Improvement - Did not describe how the required component would be achieved.</b>	<b>3- Meets Standard – Response contains the required elements but may not have the clarity or specificity for a comprehensive response.</b>	<b>5-Outstanding Response – Response is complete, clear, and specific providing the reviewer with a comprehensive understanding of the requirement.</b>
Standard IDC Review Criteria	Description	Maximum Points Available
<b>Summary of Project (1a)</b>	Quality of description outlining the local accountability plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear rationale for initiating a local accountability plan</li> <li>• An explanation of how the system will drive improved student outcomes</li> </ul> Evidence of alignment with and support for the school system’s mission, vision, and strategic goals	5
<b>Goals and Objectives, and Strategy (2a)</b>	Quality of description of the goals and objectives of the proposed program.	5
<b>Goals and Objectives, and Strategy (2b)</b>	Quality of the description of implementation of strategies sufficiently aligns with and supports the stated goals and objectives.	5
<b>Performance and Evaluation Measures of the Grant Program (3a)</b>	Quality of description of performance management routines that will be developed to ensure progress monitoring will drive the achievement of predetermined grant outcomes.	5

Application Scoring Rubric		
Each section rated 1-5		
1- Needs Improvement - Did not describe how the required component would be achieved.	3- Meets Standard – Response contains the required elements but may not have the clarity or specificity for a comprehensive response.	5-Outstanding Response – Response is complete, clear, and specific providing the reviewer with a comprehensive understanding of the requirement.
Standard IDC Review Criteria	Description	Maximum Points Available
<b>Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel (4a)</b>	The qualifications and experience of existing staff member responsible for this program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership and project management experience.</li> <li>• Experience with problem-solving and finding innovative solutions</li> <li>• Experience with state accountability system</li> <li>• Experience engaging with the community to support educational outcomes</li> </ul>	5
<b>Budget Narrative (5a)</b>	Quality of description of how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including staffing, project design, and resources needed to support the implementation of the grant.	5
<b>Parent and Community Involvement (6a)</b>	Quality of description of how families and community members will be actively involved in providing input on the components to include in the local accountability plan and how family engagement will be measured.	5
<b>Local Accountability Plan Anticipated Components (7a)</b>	Quality of description of existing programs and measurement tools that may be included as components in the local accountability plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade level(s)</li> <li>• Current baseline data</li> </ul>	5
<b>Local Accountability Plan Components (7b)</b>	Quality of description of new programs and measurement tools that may be included as components in the local accountability plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade level(s)</li> <li>• Anticipated baseline data collection date</li> </ul>	5
<b>Sustainability of Project (8a)</b>	Quality of description of how the program will be sustained beyond the life of the grant.	5
<b>Total Points Possible</b>		<b>50</b>
<b>Total Priority Points Possible</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Total Points Possible with Priority Points</b>		<b>70</b>

## Priority Points

# Program Guidelines

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

The following priority points will be awarded to applicants:

- **Evidence of Innovation Office (5 points).** The school system must have hired a school transformation or innovation officer to support the school system’s planning process. The applicant may attach a copy of the school system’s organization chart highlighting the eligible position.
- **Evidence of Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) (5 points).** The school system must have a TIA program fully approved. The applicant may attach a copy of their TIA status.
- **Evidence of Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) Participation (5 points).** The school system must have been invited to engage in the 2026-2027 Texas Strategic Leadership (TSL) grant and be actively participating. Active participation includes submitting signed assurances to the TEA by May 29, 2026. The applicant may attach a copy of the signed assurances submitted to the Agency.
- **Evidence of Campus 2025 A-F Accountability Ratings meeting standards and not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements (5 points).** The school system must have all campuses meeting academic accountability standards as indicated on the 2025 accountability ratings. The applicant may attach a statement that their District, or Open-enrollment Charter School, 2025 A-F Accountability Listing meet standards and are not subject to state interventions, sanctions, or turnaround requirements.

## Oral Interviews for Funding

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

Oral interviews will **not** be conducted for this grant program.