

Request for Application

Program Guidelines

2026-2027 Bluebonnet Learning Adoption and Implementation Supports Grant

Authorized by General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 41,
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 the grantee review all cross-referenced sections when preparing the application.

Errata Notices

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

¹ TEA is the grantee and pass-through entity for federal education funding. *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. 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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Federal and/or State Appropriations

The following is provided in compliance with federal appropriations acts:

Category	Amount
Total funds available for this project	\$10,000,000
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	\$10,000,000

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

The purpose of the grant is to provide support for ESCs with the adoption and implementation of Bluebonnet Learning. This includes training for teachers, coaches, school leaders, and Adoption Leads to support the successful adoption and implementation of Bluebonnet Learning materials.

ESCs will designate a **Program Lead (PL)** to oversee a team of campus and district coaches and an **Adoption Lead (AL)** to implement capacity-building experiences across their region. The Program Lead will establish partnerships with school systems, analyze market share and school improvement trends, and create a robust vision for school system impact.

The **Adoption Lead** will focus on expanding awareness, engagement, and adoption of Bluebonnet Learning across the region. The Adoption Lead will cultivate relationships with district and campus leaders, identify opportunities for implementation, support recruitment and onboarding of participating school systems, and collaborate closely with the Program Lead to ensure schools receive the guidance and resources needed for successful implementation.

Together, the Program Lead, Adoption Lead, and district and campus coach team will leverage their expertise to lead school systems through training, implementation support, and coaching, with a focus on best practices in instructional leadership and High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) implementation. Through coordinated outreach, implementation support, and continuous improvement efforts, the team will increase access to and effective use of Bluebonnet Learning materials, resulting in greater school system impact across the region.

Bluebonnet Learning materials are made available to participating school systems through the Texas Curriculum Resources (TCR) platform, an online curriculum management system developed in partnership with the Texas Curriculum Management Program Cooperative (TCMPC). TCR provides educators with access to curriculum documents, instructional resources, and implementation supports aligned to Bluebonnet Learning materials. As the fiscal agent for TCMPC, ESC 13 will receive additional funding to support the continued development, maintenance, and enhancement of the TCR platform and related resources that support effective implementation of Bluebonnet Learning statewide.

Eligible Applicants

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

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

Shared Services Arrangements (SSAs)

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

Shared services arrangements 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](#), Classification of Direct and Indirect Costs.

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

Note Regarding Grantee Determination of Grant-Funded Position Functions as Administrative or Programmatic: The grantee is responsible for making case-by-case determinations to determine whether the functions of a grant-funded position are **administrative or programmatic**, or divided between both. There may be overlap in characteristics and activities, and no single factor or combination of factors is necessarily determinative. There are no uniform federal regulations that define how to characterize costs as either direct program or direct administrative costs. However, the organization must be consistent across programs in how they charge these costs. For more information, including considerations for making a determination regarding a grant-funded position, see the [Universal Errata](#) issued by TEA on July 15, 2026.

Direct Administrative Costs

TEA limits the amount of direct administrative costs for this grant program to no more than 5% 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 permitted, if requested, from September 1, 2026, to stamp-in date.

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

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. The applicant must comply with each of these requirements in the application to be considered for funding:

1. Regional Leadership and Implementation Capacity

Each Educational Service Center (ESC) will designate a Program Lead and an Adoption Lead. The Program Lead and Adoption Lead will work closely with TEA and collaborate to support the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of Bluebonnet Learning across the region.

The Program Lead will oversee a team of district and campus coaches and lead the implementation of capacity-building experiences across the region. The Program Lead is responsible for establishing partnerships with school systems, analyzing market share, monitoring fidelity of implementation metrics, and evaluating school improvement trends to create a strategic vision and implementation plan for school system impact. The Program Lead will leverage their expertise and that of their team to deliver face-to-face training, implementation support, and individualized coaching over a multi-year period. The Program Lead serves as a champion of best practices in instructional leadership, with a particular focus on High Quality Material implementation.

The Adoption Lead will focus on increasing awareness, engagement, and adoption of Bluebonnet Learning throughout the region. The Adoption Lead is responsible for identifying opportunities to expand implementation, cultivating relationships with district and campus leaders, conducting outreach activities, supporting recruitment efforts, and facilitating onboarding processes for participating school systems. The Adoption Lead will collaborate closely with the Program Lead to ensure school systems receive the information, resources, and support needed to successfully adopt and implement Bluebonnet Learning materials.

2. Management of Coaches and Implementation Support

The Program Lead will manage a team of district and campus coaches responsible for delivering training, implementation support, and coaching services to district and campus leaders. District coaches will provide support to principal managers, chief academic officers, assistant superintendents, superintendents, and other district leaders as needed. Campus coaches will support principals, campus leadership teams, and teachers in implementing Bluebonnet Learning with fidelity.

Program Leads will conduct weekly implementation check-ins with district coaches and provide coaching support as needed, at minimum on a monthly basis. Program Leads will visit

participating districts at least monthly to calibrate implementation efforts and support district and campus coaching teams. Additional responsibilities include planning and facilitating internal team meetings, identifying staffing needs, leading hiring processes, ensuring coaches complete required certifications and Training-of-Trainers (ToT) requirements, and providing ongoing professional development and support.

The Adoption Lead will work alongside coaching teams to support district engagement efforts, identify implementation barriers, facilitate communication between school systems and ESC staff, and ensure participating districts are connected to available supports and resources throughout the adoption and implementation process.

3. Data Collection, Analysis, and Continuous Improvement

The Program Lead will oversee the collection, analysis, and reporting of data aligned to program success. Data shared with TEA will include, but is not limited to, student outcome data, classroom implementation fidelity measures, district and campus leadership implementation metrics, coaching cycle data, and adoption and implementation metrics reflecting regional reach and impact.

The Adoption Lead will support data-informed decision-making by monitoring adoption trends, tracking regional engagement efforts, identifying opportunities for expansion, and analyzing data related to the recruitment and retention of participating school systems. Together, the Program Lead and Adoption Lead will use data to refine strategies, increase participation, and improve implementation outcomes across the region.

4. Participation in Professional Learning and Communities of Practice

Program Leads are required to actively participate in TEA-sponsored professional learning opportunities, including Program U, focus groups, coaching sessions, and other required professional development experiences. Through these engagements, Program Leads will strengthen their expertise in instructional leadership, HQIM implementation, and Bluebonnet Learning content and program knowledge. They are expected to support the growth and development of district and campus coaches and contribute to a culture of continuous improvement.

Adoption Leads will also participate in required training and professional learning experiences related to Bluebonnet Learning adoption, implementation, outreach strategies, and stakeholder engagement. Adoption Leads will collaborate with TEA, ESC staff, and regional partners to strengthen regional implementation efforts and share best practices.

5. School System Recruitment, Onboarding, and Program Experience

The Program Lead and Adoption Lead will collaboratively manage the school system experience from recruitment through implementation. Responsibilities include communicating program expectations, identifying district and campus leaders who will participate in the grant, onboarding participating schools and districts, and ensuring leaders understand program requirements and supports.

The Adoption Lead will take a primary role in designing and implementing recruitment, marketing, and awareness efforts to expand participation in Bluebonnet Learning. This includes leading informational sessions, promotional events, and strategic outreach campaigns for prospective school systems. The Program Lead will ensure participating districts receive high-quality implementation support and will intervene as needed to address challenges or concerns raised by district or campus leaders.

6. Collaboration Within the Educational Service Center

The Program Lead and Adoption Lead will collaborate with ESC leadership and other program teams to ensure school systems receive coherent, aligned support across initiatives. Together, they will contribute to strategic planning, capacity-building efforts, and continuous improvement activities within the ESC.

The Program Lead will serve as the primary TEA point of contact for grant implementation and be responsible for communicating important program information to ESC leadership and staff. The Program Lead will also support matrixed staffing structures, staff development, and performance support related to district and campus coaches. The Adoption Lead will support regional partnership development and coordinate efforts across ESC departments to maximize awareness, engagement, and participation in Bluebonnet Learning.

7. Bluebonnet Learning Adoption and Implementation Supports Grant Strategic Plan

Each ESC will develop, submit, and implement an annual Bluebonnet Learning Adoption and Implementation Supports Grant Strategic Plan. The strategic plan will outline the outreach, training, support, and technical assistance activities necessary to increase both the scale and quality of Bluebonnet Learning adoption and implementation throughout the region.

The strategic plan must include measurable goals, performance metrics, aligned activities, responsible staff, timelines, and expected outcomes. The plan should clearly define annual adoption and implementation targets and describe strategies for achieving those targets. ESCs will submit annual regional adoption goals as part of the strategic planning process, and these goals will be reviewed and approved by TEA.

Continued eligibility for future grant funding may be contingent upon demonstrated progress toward approved regional adoption and implementation targets, as determined by TEA.

8. TCR Subscription Growth and Implementation Support

As part of regional Bluebonnet Learning adoption efforts, ESCs will promote educator awareness and use of the Texas Curriculum Resources (TCR) platform. ESCs shall incorporate TCR resources into training, coaching, technical assistance, and implementation support activities and identify opportunities to support school systems in accessing available TCR content areas.

ESCs will establish regional strategies to increase engagement with the TCR platform and monitor progress toward regional goals related to TCR subscriptions and Bluebonnet Learning implementation. These efforts should be integrated into annual strategic planning activities and aligned with TEA-established performance targets.

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, Assurances, and Certifications.

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

- 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)
- Capital outlay
- Grant funds should be used to accomplish the objectives of the Bluebonnet Learning Adoption and Implementation Supports Grant.
 - This may include the use of grant funds for payroll for staff salaries supporting the adoption and/or implementation of TCR and/or Bluebonnet Learning in the region. Costs may not be charged for services or time spent on work other than supporting the adoption and/or implementation of Bluebonnet Learning in the region.
- In-state travel expenses to support school systems visits to other school systems modeling exemplary implementation of Bluebonnet Learning materials are allowed. Travel costs must follow the travel guidance provided at the beginning of this Allowable Activities and Use of Funds section. Costs may not exceed state approved travel rates. Other travel expenses, such as trips to conferences or for activities not directly related to TCR/Bluebonnet Learning adoption and implementation initiatives are not allowed.
- An ESC may use grant funding to subsidize services and technical assistance for school systems related to the adoption and implementation of TCR and/or Bluebonnet Learning.

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

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 be funded under the grant program. Travel cost reimbursement must follow the travel guidance provided at the beginning of this Allowable Activities and Use of Funds section. Only the following travel costs may be allowable for these positions:

- In-state travel costs not to exceed state approved travel rates
- Grant funds should be used to accomplish the objectives of the Bluebonnet Learning Adoption and Implementation Supports Grant.

Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences

Conferences may be hosted or sponsored under the grant program. Conferences must be managed to minimize costs to the grant award. The following types of conferences may be allowable:

- Grant funds should be used to accomplish the objectives of the Bluebonnet Learning Adoption and Implementation Supports Grant.

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
- Field trips
- Out-of-state travel
- Travel for students to conferences
- Stipends for non-employees
- Non-employee costs for conferences
- Cost of membership in any civic or community organization
- Advisory councils

Expenditure Reporting (ER)

See the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Cash Management, as well as the [Expenditure Reporting](#) webpage.

The grant program will be funded by reimbursement once the NOGA has been issued and the grantee submits payment (drawdown) requests through the Expenditure Reporting (ER) system. The grantee is required to request payment regularly, at minimum quarterly, for allowable expenditures as grant

program requirements are carried out. However, it is best practice to request funds monthly to support program implementation.

Note: Not requesting payments at least quarterly may cause noncompliance findings on improper program implementation in TEA subrecipient monitoring.

Performance Measures

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

Required Performance Measures for Future Funding Eligibility

1. For this grant cycle, eligibility for future grant funding related to Bluebonnet Learning will be contingent on progress toward approved targets for the three performance measures listed below. The Bluebonnet Adoption and Implementation Annual Report template provides additional reporting details and performance measure definitions.
 - a. A decrease or no change in the number of TEKS Resource System (TRS)-only subscribers
 - b. Increase in the number of school systems subscribed to the TCR platform in available content areas
 - c. Annual performance targets for each metric will be established by TEA. ESCs will report adoption, implementation, and growth data for each Bluebonnet Learning content area in accordance with TEA guidance.
2. Number of school systems, campuses, and students per grade level implementing OER materials. This includes all school systems implementing in the region, whether:
 - a. Self-funded (with or without technical assistance from a third-party provider or ESC)
 - b. Grant-funded and receiving technical assistance from a third-party provider
 - c. Grant-funded and receiving technical assistance from the ESC
3. Scope of ESC-provided Bluebonnet Learning implementation supports
 - a. Number of school systems, campuses, and students per grade level implementing Bluebonnet Learning materials and receiving technical assistance from the ESC
4. Student Outcome Measures:
 - a. Student performance and growth results from state assessments for the 2026-2027 school year for all campuses and grade levels implementing Bluebonnet Learning materials and receiving technical assistance from the ESC
5. School System Case Study:
 - a. Identification of 1-2 school systems with successful Bluebonnet Learning implementation, receiving technical assistance from the ESC, and achieving improved year-over-year student outcomes

- b. Narrative report evaluating the ESC- and/or school system-provided supports leading to these outcomes
- c. Reflection on how the ESC will scale effective practices and lessons learned across the region for improved implementation support

Attachments

There are two types of attachments that may be required to be submitted with the 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.