



## 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 9, 2025

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, Article IX, Section 18.114(c)(v)

This IDC application must be submitted via email to **competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov**.

The IDC application may be signed with a digital ID or it may be signed by hand. Both forms of signature are acceptable.

TEA must receive the application by **11:59 p.m. CT, April 9, 2025**.

Grant period from **May 29, 2025 - September 30, 2025**

Pre-award costs permitted from **Not Permitted**

Application stamp-in date and time

### Required Attachments

1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)

See the Program Guidelines for for additional attachment information.

### Select Focus Area (Applicants May Select One or Both Focus Areas)

☒ Focus Area 1: Career and Technical Education Course

☒ Focus Area 2: Work-Based Learning Experiences

### Amendment Number

Amendment number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds):

N/A

### Applicant Information

Organization Vanguard Academy CDN 108-808 ESC 01 UEI NLECSY1N

Address 2510 South Veterans Boulevard City Edinburg ZIP 78539 Vendor ID 742971562

Primary Contact Diana Ybanez Email d\_ybanez@vanguardac.net Phone (956) 781-1701

Secondary Contact Dr. Marisol Rocha Email mrocha@vanguardac.net Phone (956) 781-1701

### Certification and Incorporation

I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representative to obligate this organization in a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions of the LOI application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the LOI application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

☒ LOI application, guidelines, and instructions

☒ Debarment and Suspension Certification

☒ General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances

☒ Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name Dr. Marisol Rocha Title Superintendent

Email mrocha@vanguardac.net Phone (956) 781-1701

Signature Dr. Marisol Rocha Date 4/1/2025

**Shared Services Arrangements**

☐ Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are permitted for this grant. **Check the box below if applying as fiscal agent.**

- ☐ The LEA or ESC submitting this application is the fiscal agent of a planned SSA. All participating agencies will enter into a written SSA agreement describing the fiscal agent and SSA member responsibilities. All participants understand that the "Shared Services Arrangement Attachment" must be completed and signed by all SSA members, and submitted to TEA before the NOGA is issued.

**Statutory/Program Assurances**

The following assurances apply to this program. In order to meet the requirements of the program, the applicant must comply with these assurances.

Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- ☒ 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this IDC will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- ☒ 2. 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.
- ☒ 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant Program Guidelines.
- ☒ 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2024-2025 Summer Career and Technical Education Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- ☒ 5. The applicant provides assurance that curriculum will be appropriately aligned to regional labor market supported CTE programs of study.
- ☒ 6. The applicant provides assurance to provide data to TEA on student completion of courses through the Fall PEIMS Collection Process.
- ☒ 7. 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 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.

**Summary of Program (Focus Area 1)**

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Include the overall mission and specific needs of the organization. Describe how the program will address the mission and needs.

**MISSION:** Part of the Charter's mission is "to prepare students to be successful in their continuing education, to create positive learning habits and working ethics, to prepare students to be successful in their careers, and to teach students to be responsible and respectful."

**SPECIFIC NEEDS:** In order to thrust Vanguard Academy towards meeting its mission, it is crucial to attend to both Charter and community needs. These needs, which were meticulously identified through a thorough analysis of the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and 2022 United States Census Bureau, include but are not limited to: 1) 91.7% of the students at Vanguard Academy are economically disadvantaged. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 62.3%. 2) 74.6% of the students at Vanguard Academy are classified as at-risk. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 53.2%. 3) 26.9% of the people living in the surrounding area suffer from poverty. This is more than nearly double the state's average of 13.7%. 4) The average median household income is only \$52,281, which is \$24,011 less than the state average of \$76,292.

**OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM:** If awarded the 2024-2025 Summer CTE grant, Vanguard Academy will launch an Accelerated Dual Credit Welding Program with South Texas College for 9th to 11th graders to earn welding certificates or degrees. Additionally, the academy plans a one-week drone certification course for 11th and 12th graders under the Engineering pathway, which includes creating a promotional commercial and conducting aerial campus surveys. Lastly, the academy will launch a bridge program for incoming 9th graders to introduce them to the Culinary Arts and Health Science CTE programs. These courses will equip 38 students with foundational knowledge, preparing them for further education and certification in these fields.

**HOW CHARTER'S MISSION AND NEEDS ARE MET:** These courses will significantly enhance Vanguard Academy's offerings by: 1) Integrating CTE coursework to boost college, career, and military readiness. 2) Partnering with South Texas College to increase dual credit achievements, thus enhancing higher education access at lower costs. 3) Providing Engineering pathway courses that lead to drone certifications, equipping students with industry-recognized credentials for technical careers. By offering advanced CTE, dual credit, and certification opportunities, the academy aims to empower its economically disadvantaged and at-risk students towards meaningful employment and post-secondary success.

**Summary of Program (Focus Area 2)**

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Include the overall mission and specific needs of the organization. Describe how the program will address the mission and needs.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Part of the Charter's mission is "to prepare students to be successful in their continuing education, to create positive learning habits and working ethics, to prepare students to be successful in their careers, and to teach students to be responsible and respectful."

**SPECIFIC NEEDS:** In order to thrust Vanguard Academy towards meeting its mission, it is crucial to attend to both charter and community needs. These needs, which were meticulously identified through a thorough analysis of the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and 2022 United States Census Bureau, include but are not limited to:

1. 91.7% of the students at Vanguard Academy are economically disadvantaged. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 62.3%.
2. 74.6% of the students at Vanguard Academy are classified as at-risk. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 53.2%.
3. 26.9% of the people living in the surrounding area suffer from poverty. This is more than nearly double the state's average of 13.7%.
4. The average median household income is only \$52,281, which is \$24,011 less than the state average of \$76,292.

**OVERVIEW OF THE GRANT PROGRAM:** If awarded the 2024-2025 Summer CTE program under Focus Area 2, Vanguard Academy will target a total of 25 students to participate in a 4-week long Work-Based Learning (WBL) Program that targets Health Science, Business Management, Information Technology, and Cosmetology. To ensure students receive hands-on WBL experiences in these areas, the charter will partner with the South Texas College (who will provide hands-on clinical-related WBL experiences), the City of Pharr Information Technology, Vanguard Academy's IT Department, Sports Clips, and the Pharr Economic Development Center (EDC) (two of which have provided signed letters of support – 2 priority points).

**HOW CHARTER'S MISSION AND NEEDS ARE MET:** An integral facet of Vanguard Academy's mission is to "promote high levels of success" for their students. These Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences play a pivotal role in meeting this mission, not only by fostering success for students' post-high school graduation but also by directly addressing community needs. By enhancing the likelihood of employability, these WBL experiences will also contribute to the reduction of poverty rates and the elevation of the average median household income.

**Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel (Focus Area 1)**

Outline the required qualifications and experience for primary project personnel and any external consultants projected to be involved in the implementation and delivery of the program. Include whether the position is existing or proposed.

**Title and Responsibilities of Position****Required Qualifications and Experience**

Grant Program Manager (Proposed) - Oversee the grant, oversee grant staff, conduct data collection, and provide support in program evaluation.

Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in education or related field.  
Required Experience: Two (2) years of experience in overseeing grants and data collection.

Superintendent (Existing) – Oversee personnel engaged in the grant program and ensure grant data is submitted to TEA.

Required Qualifications: Master's degree in education or related field and a Superintendent Certification. Required Experience: Two (2) years of experience serving as a Charter Superintendent.

Counselor (Proposed) – Advocate for the grant program and assist in facilitating course enrollment for students.

Required Qualifications: Master's degree in school counseling or related field.  
Required Experience: Two (2) years of experience in assisting students in selecting career pathways.

IHE/CTE Staff (Proposed) – Provide accelerated CTE coursework, the summer bridge program, and encourage post-secondary persistence.

Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in education or related field; and be certified to offer CTE courses at the partnering IHE. Required Experience: Two (2) years of experience teaching; and one (1) year of experience teaching CTE-rel

**Qualifications and Experience for Key Personnel (Focus Area 2)**

Outline the required qualifications and experience for primary project personnel and any external consultants projected to be involved in the implementation and delivery of the program. Include whether the position is existing or proposed.

**Title and Responsibilities of Position****Required Qualifications and Experience**

Grant Program Manager (Proposed) - Ensure the grant is implemented correctly and collect information as needed.

Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in education or related field.  
Required Experience: Two (2) years of experience in overseeing grants and data collection.

Superintendent (Existing) – Supervise the people working on the grant program and make sure all the necessary information is sent to TEA.

Required Qualifications: Master's degree in education or related field and a Superintendent Certification.  
Required Experience: Two (2) years of experience serving as a Superintendent.

Counselor (Existing) – Promote the grant program and help students sign up for Work-Based Learning experiences.

Required Qualifications: Master's degree in school counseling or related field.  
Required Experience: Two (2) years of experience in assisting students in selecting career pathways.

Business Partner (Proposed) – Supervise students as they engage in WBL activities.

Required Qualifications: Proficiency and expertise in delivering specific CTE-related training and supervision.  
Required Experience: Four (4) years of experience in the targeted POS.

CTE Staff (Existing) – Keep an eye on students when they're out in the field and take care of any issues brought up by the businesses they're working with.

Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in education or related field.  
Required Experience: Three (3) years of experience in CTE.



**Goals, Objectives, and Strategies (Focus Area 1)**

Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

**GOALS/OBJECTIVES:** Vanguard Academy's Focus Area 1 objective is to offer 38 students CTE-related courses in one of the following career pathways: Health Science, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Hospitality and Tourism.

**ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES:** To ensure Vanguard Academy meets its goal/objective, the following activities will be conducted:

1. Collaboration with South Texas College and Utilize Internal staff: Our primary strategy involves partnering with South Texas College and our certified CTE educators to offer summer classes.
2. Student Guidance: We will facilitate sessions for upperclassman students to meet with the Campus Counselor. During these sessions, students will receive guidance on the available courses during the summer term.
3. Course Sequencing: To provide students with a clear path toward success in their chosen careers.

Additionally, for the drones. Vanguard Academy will:

1. Utilize Certified Staff: The Drones program will leverage our certified staff members to manage and oversee the program's operations.
2. External Certification: Collaborating with an external certification company, we will facilitate the administration of the required drone certifications.

By implementing these strategies and activities, we aim to provide our students with the best possible educational experience, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their chosen career paths.

**Goals, Objectives, and Strategies (Focus Area 2)**

Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

**GOALS/OBJECTIVES:** Vanguard Academy's Focus Area 2 objective is to offer 25 students Work-Based Learning (WBL) opportunities. This will, in turn, assist Vanguard Academy in meeting its goal of ensuring every child of the charter is strategically prepared for post-secondary success, whether that be in an Institution of Higher Education or the workforce.

**ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES:** To achieve Vanguard Academy's goal, the WBL program will undertake the following activities: Work local businesses such as Pharr Economic Development Corporation, Pharr Information Technology Department, Vanguard Academy's Information Technology (IT) Director, South Texas College (STC – hands-on experience as part of clinical hours), and Sports Clips to develop a learning schedule that is conducive to both the student and the partners; Pay students to partake in the program; and Provide transportation to and from the business site, if needed. (2 Priority points for 2 Letters of Support)

During students' WBL program, students will be able to conduct real-world work activities in various Programs of Study (POS). Experiences that students could partake in include but are not limited to: checking blood pressure/glucose levels (Health Science), creating checks, and properly filing invoices (Business, Marketing, and Finance); Installing cybersecurity and network maintenance (Information Technology), and cutting clients hair (Cosmetology). These experiences will increase student learning, develop employability skills in actual workplaces, provide a smoother transition from education into the workforce, and improve post-school outcomes such as employment and post-secondary attendance.

Performance and Evaluation Measures (Focus Area 1)

Describe the performance measures identified for this program which are related to student outcomes and are consistent with the purpose of the program. Include the tools used to measure performance, as well as the processes that will be used to ensure the effectiveness of project objectives and strategies.

Vanguard Academy will collect data on a weekly basis for both the proposed summer bridge program and accelerated CTE program offerings that will be provided as part of Focus Area 1. This constant collection process will ensure student outcomes are evaluated consistently throughout the program period.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: To assess performance, the following quantitative measures will be tracked: Demographic of students served; Number of students enrolled in the summer program; Number of students completing the summer program; and All PEIMS-related data.

TOOLS USED TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE: To properly track this information, Vanguard Academy staff will utilize the following: student intake forms, questionnaires, progress reports, grades, attendance sheets; and meetings with CTE teachers.

HOW TO ENSURE EFFECTIVENESS: The gathered data will play a crucial role in enabling the charter to assess whether students in this program are achieving the set goals and objectives. Additionally, it will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the strategies employed as part of the Summer CTE Grant Program.

Performance and Evaluation Measures (Focus Area 2)

Describe the performance measures identified for this program which are related to student outcomes and are consistent with the purpose of the program. Include the tools used to measure performance, as well as the processes that will be used to ensure the effectiveness of project objectives and strategies.

Vanguard Academy will collect data on a weekly basis for the WBL experiences offered as part of Focus Area 2. This constant collection process will ensure student outcomes are evaluated consistently throughout the program period.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: To assess performance, the following quantitative measures will be tracked: Student demographics; Number of students participating in internships; Number of businesses and industry partners offering WBL experiences to students; Total and average number of hours worked by students; Students' total and average hourly earnings in the program; Training plans created for each student; Partnership agreements; Assessments or recognition of skills for each student in the program; and All CTE PEIMS-related data.

TOOLS USED TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE: To properly track this information Vanguard Academy staff will utilize the following: student in-take forms, student surveys, performance reports, questionnaires, grades, attendance sheets, and engage in meetings with business partner liaisons. This comprehensive approach will ensure the charter has access to a diverse set of information that measures both program and student performance.

HOW TO ENSURE EFFECTIVENESS: The gathered data will play a crucial role in enabling the charter to assess whether students in this program are achieving the set goals and objectives. Additionally, it will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the strategies employed as part of the Summer CTE Grant Program.

**Budget Narrative (Focus Area 1)**

Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

**HOW BUDGET MEETS GOALS AND NEEDS:** To develop the proposed budget for the Summer CTE Grant, Vanguard Academy outlined needs, goals, and milestones for student development and success in Focus Area 1. It also researched the cost of the staffing, supplies and materials, and curriculum needed to reach those goals. Based on the courses that will be available and program needs, Vanguard Academy staff developed the following budget:

1) Payroll (\$4,500) – Funds will be used so that teachers can provide instruction in the identified CTE courses, bus drivers to provide transportation, and employee benefits for all staff can be covered; 2) Professional and Contracted Services (\$31,496) – Funds will be used for Professional Development, to pay for student certification costs for the drones, and for STC to offer training courses; 3) Supplies and Materials (\$7,077) - Grant funds will be utilized to purchase instructional supplies and resources needed for the CTE courses program (i.e. laptops); 4) Other Operating Costs (\$4,800) - Funds will be used to cover costs associated with transporting students to and from the campus. 5) Indirect Cost (\$2,127) - The charter will cover costs associated with the overhead fees of running the program.

**SNAPSHOT OF FUNDS:** Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, the provision of Accelerated CTE course offerings and a Summer Bridge Program at this time from charter funds is not feasible. Nevertheless, Vanguard Academy does have funding currently allocated to cover expenses related to facilities, buses, cafeteria personnel, computers/software, and classrooms. These activities are financed through local funds for facilities and maintenance, state transportation funds, Texas Department of Agriculture allocations for summer food, and the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMS) for hardware/software products. These funds will be utilized to offset expenses associated with our proposed grant.

**HOW TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS:** If program adjustments are necessary, Vanguard Academy's stakeholders will collaborate to identify essential changes and reach out to TEA for guidance. Should modifications be needed, letters of intent will be sent to all stakeholders (students, parents, board members, etc.), ensuring that any changes comply with TEA's amendment rules for a systematic update.

**Budget Narrative (Focus Area 2)**

Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

**HOW BUDGET MEETS GOALS AND NEEDS:** To develop the proposed budget for the Summer CTE Grant, Vanguard Academy outlined needs, goals, and milestones for student development and success in Focus Area 2. The charter also researched the cost of the staffing, supplies and materials, and curriculum needed to reach those goals. Based on the experiences that will be available and program needs, Vanguard Academy staff developed the following budget:

1) Payroll (\$5,900) – Payroll costs have been budgeted to provide professional extra-duty pay, pay for bus drivers to transport students, and employee benefits. 2) Professional and Contracted Services (\$5,500) - Grant funds will be used to fund the IHE to provide their clinical WBL experiences; 3) Supplies and Materials (\$7,973) - Grant funds will be utilized to purchase instructional supplies and resources that are needed to deliver real-world work experience. 3) Other Operating Costs (\$28,500) - The charter will cover travel costs as well as the cost associated with paying at least 25 students to receive work-based training. 4) Indirect Cost (\$2,127) - The charter will cover costs associated with the overhead fees of running the program.

**SNAPSHOT OF FUNDS:** Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, the provision of paid internships at this time from charter funds is not feasible. Nevertheless, Vanguard Academy does have funding currently allocated to cover expenses related to facilities, buses, cafeteria personnel, computers/software, and classrooms. These activities are financed through local funds for facilities and maintenance, state transportation funds, Texas Department of Agriculture allocations for summer food, and the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMS) for hardware/software products. These funds will be utilized to offset expenses associated with our proposed grant.

**HOW TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS:** If adjustments are needed, Vanguard Academy's stakeholders will discuss necessary changes and seek guidance from TEA. Essential modifications will be communicated to all stakeholders (students, parents, board members, etc.) through letters of intent, adhering to TEA's amendment rules for effective program updates.

Program Requirements

1a. Needs Assessment (Focus Area 1): Applicants must complete a Needs Assessment Summary indicating specific area of need the LEA has that hinders the completion of courses within programs of study. (For example: describing scheduling conflicts, specific program of study teacher availability, etc.)

During the application process, Vanguard Academy conducted a comprehensive needs assessment utilizing the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and the 2022 United States Census Bureau. The uncovered statistics not only presented alarming figures but also underscored a compelling need for funding through this program. Key indicators highlighting Vanguard Academy's need for grant support include:

1. 91.7% of the students at Vanguard Academy are economically disadvantaged. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 62.3%.
2. 74.6% of the students at Vanguard Academy are classified as at-risk. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 53.2%.
3. 26.9% of the people living in the surrounding area suffer from poverty. This is more than nearly double the state's average of 13.7%.
4. The average median household income is only \$52,281, which is \$24,011 less than the state average of \$76,292.

To address these needs, we will:

1. Integrate Hospitality and Tourism, Manufacturing, and Health Science coursework to increase the percentage of students graduating ready for College, Career, and/or the Military.
2. Collaborate with South Texas College to provide Advanced CTE courses, as the charter anticipates an increase in the number of students graduating with dual course credits. This initiative will expand students' access to higher education while significantly reducing their overall cost of obtaining a degree or certification.
3. Offer courses in the Engineering pathway that prepare students to earn a drone certification, equipping them with industry-recognized credentials. This certification will enhance their employability and open doors to specialized technical careers.

1b. Needs Assessment (Focus Area 2): Applicants must complete a Needs Assessment Summary indicating specific area of needs the LEA has to offer work-based learning opportunities. (For example: describing transportation limitations, describing scheduling conflicts, specific program of study teacher availability, etc.)

During the application process, Vanguard Academy conducted a comprehensive needs assessment utilizing the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and 2022 United States Census Bureau. The uncovered statistics not only presented alarming figures but also underscored a compelling need for funding through this program. Key indicators highlighting Vanguard Academy's need for grant support include:

1. 91.7% of the students at Vanguard Academy are economically disadvantaged. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 62.3%.
2. 74.6% of the students at Vanguard Academy are classified as at-risk. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 53.2%.
3. 26.9% of the people living in the surrounding area suffer from poverty. This is more than nearly double the state's average of 13.7%.
4. The average median household income is only \$52,281, which is \$24,011 less than the state average of \$76,292.

To address these needs, the charter will offer paid internships that not only increase the amount of Work Based Learning experiences students graduate with but enhance the likelihood of employability; thereby:

- Contributing to the reduction of poverty rates, and
- Elevating the average median household income.



**Program Requirements, cont'd.**

**2. Focus Area 1:** Applicants must specify which program(s) of study and the CTE course(s) in the program(s) of study that will be offered (see <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/cte-programs-of-study> for a list of the approved statewide programs of study). Include the number of students who be engaged and supported in this focus area.

**PROGRAMS TO BE OFFERED:** Within Focus Area 1 Summer CTE Grant Program, Vanguard Academy will provide CTE courses under the Manufacturing Career Pathway, the Health Science Career Pathway, and the Hospitality and Tourism Career Pathway. This program is tailored for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. Over an intensive 4-week session, students will delve into courses such as Introduction to Welding, Welding I, Welding II, Principles of Health Science, Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, and Introduction to Culinary Arts. These courses are expertly taught by experienced instructors from South Texas College, and the charter school has established a specialized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exclusively for these summer classes, seamlessly integrating them with the regular school year curriculum.

**DRONE CERTIFICATION COURSE:** Geared towards 11th and 12th graders within the TEA Engineering pathway, this one-week course provides a unique opportunity for students to attain a drone certification. During this intensive program, students will acquire the skills necessary to create a promotional and recruitment commercial for the charter, all while conducting campus surveys using aerial footage. The ultimate objective is to certify students as drone pilots, adhering to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards.

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT WILL BE IN THE PROGRAM:** The Focus Area 1 program will be offered to 38 students.

**3. Focus Area 2:** Applicants must specify business and industry partners who will be involved in the program. Additionally, specify the work-based learning model(s) which will be utilized and the number of students who will be engaged and supported.

**BUSINESS/INDUSTRY PARTNERS WHO WILL BE IN THE SUMMER CTE PROGRAM:** To ensure students receive hands-on WBL experiences, the charter will partner with South Texas College, the City of Pharr, along with Vanguard Academy's Information Technology (IT) Departments, and Sports Clips. (2 provided signed letters of support – 2 priority points).

**WORK-BASED MODEL:** This face-to-face model combines instruction with real-world activities to ensure practical application of learning. Key programs include:

1. **Phlebotomy Apprenticeship Program:** Partnering with South Texas College, Vanguard Academy offers a Phlebotomy Certification Program that includes 64 hours of classroom and 60 hours of clinical training, equipping students for industry success upon graduation.
2. **Business Management/Marketing Project:** In collaboration with the Pharr Economic Development Corporation, students engage in a 4-week, project-based practicum focusing on marketing and business development, dedicating four hours daily to gain real-world experience.
3. **Information Technology:** A partnership with the City of Pharr and its IT Department immerses students in a four-week program covering IT operations and emerging technologies, running four days a week for a total of 24 hours weekly.
4. **Cosmetology:** Working with Sports Clips, this program offers a four-week, intensive hands-on experience in cosmetology, where students learn skills like haircutting, coloring, and eyebrow waxing four hours daily, prepping them for professional careers

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT WILL BE IN THE PROGRAM:** The Focus Area 2 program will be offered to 25 students.



Appendix I: Amendment Description and Purpose (leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding)

An amendment must be submitted when the program plan or budget is altered for the reasons described in the "When to Amend the Application" document posted on the [Administering a Grant](#) page. The following are required to be submitted for an amendment: (1) Page 1 of the application with updated contact information and current authorized official's signature and date, (2) Appendix I with changes identified and described, (3) all updated sections of the application or budget affected by the changes identified below, and, if applicable, (4) Amended Budget Request. Amendment Instructions with more details can be found on the last tab of the budget template.

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Amended Section	Reason for Amendment