# 2025-2026 Effective Advising Framework Planning Grant
## Informal Discretionary Grant (IDC) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, June 17, 2023

Texas Education Agency

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

Application stamp-in date and time

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, June 17, 2025**.

Grant period from **September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026**

Pre-award costs permitted from **Pre-Award Costs Are Not Permitted**

**Required Attachments** (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)

Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules
Attachment 1: 2025-2026 Effective Advising Framework Planning Grant Program Agreement

## Amendment Number

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

## Applicant Information

Organization: Education Service Center Regio | CDN: 227950 | Campus: | ESC: 13 | UEI: GCDDX6H7JRB5

Address: 5702 Springdale Road | City: Austin | ZIP: 78723 | Vendor ID: 1741590220

Primary Contact: Albert Felts | Email: albert.felts@esc13.txed.net | Phone: 512-919-5419

Secondary Contact: Annie Molina | Email: annie.molina@esc13.txed.net | Phone: 512-919-5236

## 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 IDC application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the IDC application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

☒ IDC application, guidelines, and instructions
☒ General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances
☒ Debarment and Suspension Certification
☒ Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name: Rich Elsasser | Title: Executive Director

Email: rich.elsasser@esc13.txed.net | Phone: 512-919-5301

Signature: Rich Elsasser Digitally signed by Rich Elsasser Date: 2025.06.10 19:39:22 -05'00' | Date: 06/10/2025

## Shared Services Arrangements

☐ Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are NOT permitted for this grant. .

## 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 LOI 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 2025-2026 Effective Advising Framework Planning Grant Program Guidelines.

☒ 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2025-2026 Effective Advising Framework Planning Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.

☒ 5. 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

a) Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. b) Describe how this program will support individual planning in the context of comprehensive school counseling. c) Describe how this program will foster innovation in CTE programming and/or promote careers pathways aligned to high-skill, high-wage careers or industries.

a) Overview of the Program

Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD, in partnership with ESC Region 13, will implement a targeted planning program using Effective Advising Framework (EAF) Planning Grant funds to strengthen individual student planning systems and align with the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. Each district will establish a steering committee to review current advising practices, analyze College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) data, and identify opportunities to better connect students with postsecondary pathways. The EAF, modeled after the Texas Education Agency's Effective Schools Framework (ESF), reflects a clear vision for what districts and schools across Texas must do to ensure every student is prepared for postsecondary success. By leveraging technical assistance and coaching from ESC Region 13, the program will focus on building sustainable advising frameworks that connect academic planning with workforce and postsecondary readiness outcomes.

b) Support for Individual Planning in Comprehensive Counseling

As Districts of Innovation, Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD value flexibility and continuous system improvement. Both districts will expand individual student planning by aligning K–12 academic and career pathways with regional labor market demands. The EAF Coach will provide direct coaching, targeted training, and continuous support grounded in TEA guidelines, district data, and stakeholder input. Diagnostic assessments and needs analyses will inform updates to advising systems and the development of grade-level benchmarks to strengthen the individual planning components of their comprehensive counseling programs. This work will ensure students across all campuses and grade levels receive structured, developmentally appropriate academic and career advising that builds over time and supports access and success for all student groups.

c) Innovation in CTE Programming and Career Pathways

The steering committees will lead a comprehensive review of existing CTE programs to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. Districts will focus on labor market alignment, vertical coherence of advising systems, and expanded access for special populations. Strategic plans developed during the grant period will embed these improvements, with an emphasis on creating innovative, high-quality CTE pathways that prepare students for success in high-skill, high-wage industries. Staff will be encouraged to expand their resources and professional networks by participating in statewide CTE and counseling conferences. The updated advising systems will ensure students have the knowledge, tools, and supports needed to navigate postsecondary options and transition into the workforce.

## Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel

1. **Project Leadership**: **a) EAF Coach** - Who will serve as the EAF Coach(es)? What are this person's qualifications and what is your reason for selecting them as the EAF Coach? What percentage of time will the EAF Coach(es) be allocated to this project? Include any other roles the EAF Coach holds and the percentage of time they are allocated to other projects, not to exceed 100%. If selecting more than one EAF Coach, indicate which district(s) each coach will be responsible for supporting for the duration of the grant cycle. **b) EAF Coach Strategy** - What is the training and communication strategy the EAF Coach(es) will use to ensure participating districts fulfill their commitments to the deliverables of this project? How will the EAF Coach(es) monitor progress toward completion of district deliverables? How will an EAF Coach intervene, if necessary, with districts who are not meeting expectations? **c) ESC Strategy** - How will the ESC ensure the EAF Coach(es) have the necessary time and resources to successfully complete all grant requirements? How will the ESC monitor the performance of the EAF Coach(es) and track progress toward grant deliverables? What protocol will be followed if the ESC recognizes the EAF Coach is at risk or if they are notified by TEA that an EAF Coach is at-risk? What steps will be taken if the ESC does not retain the selected EAF Coach(es) for the entirety of the grant? How will the ESC ensure the grant project is integrated with other internal efforts?

a) EAF Coach
Region 13's Counseling Services Administrative Specialist will serve as the EAF Coach for Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD. She holds a Master of Science in Counseling and Development and a Texas Principal Certification and is recognized as a TEA-certified Effective Advising Framework Coach with Distinction. She brings over 20 years of leadership experience designing and managing comprehensive counseling programs, postsecondary advising systems, and grant initiatives across district and regional settings. She has directed GEAR UP initiatives, led the ESC Region 13 Title IV Part A program, and contributed to the development and delivery of the High School Student Advising Cooperative. Her background in strategic planning, coaching, program evaluation, and leadership development is closely aligned to the objectives of the EAF Planning Grant. The Administrative Specialist will allocate 15% of her time to the EAF Planning Grant. The remainder of her time will be allocated as follows: 65% Title IV Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment, 15% Counselor Support Services Local Initiatives, and 5% Title I Part D Subpart 2 initiatives.

b) EAF Coach Strategy
Our Counseling Administrative Specialist will provide monthly technical assistance meetings with district EAF Project Leads supplemented by regular email, phone, and virtual check-ins. A kickoff meeting will be held in September 2025 to establish expectations, timelines, and deliverables. Progress will be monitored through milestone checklists, coaching logs, and deliverable tracking. Her approach includes providing structured feedback, maintaining a continuous feedback loop, and aligning coaching sessions to each district's strategic goals. If a district is not meeting expected benchmarks, she will implement a corrective action protocol, including deliverable reviews, identification of barriers, and co-development of an improvement plan with district leadership to ensure timelines and outcomes are met.

c) ESC Strategy
ESC Region 13 will ensure the Administrative Specialist has access to internal teams specializing in CTE, CCMR, leadership development, school improvement, and Effective Schools Framework (ESF) facilitation to support EAF Planning Grant implementation. She will also have access to grants management and compliance experts to support fiscal oversight and reporting. Monthly internal reviews with the Counselor Support Services Coordinator will be conducted to monitor deliverable progress, resolve challenges, and ensure budget alignment. If Region 13's Administrative Specialist is identified as at-risk or if notified by TEA, ESC Region 13 will immediately implement a structured support plan, pairing her with an experienced EAF mentor and establishing a growth-focused improvement plan with clear benchmarks. A succession plan is also in place; ESC Region 13 maintains a bench of three additional certified EAF Coaches who can step in to ensure uninterrupted support. To promote alignment with broader regional initiatives, EAF Planning Grant work will be embedded in internal service systems and highlighted in key regional networks including the High School Student Advising Cooperative, CCMR Collaborative Network, Lead Counselor Learning Group, and the 2025–26 Small and Rural Schools Network.

## Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel, cont'd.

3. **District Leadership**: a) Outline the process the ESC undertook to select the **partner school district(s).** Explain the reasoning behind your selection, considering key elements such as current initiatives, participation in other projects, district and/or campus level leadership, etc., that informed the selection. b) Explain **EAF Project Lead** selection. Who is the identified EAF Project Lead at each partner district and what are their qualifications to serve as EAF Project Lead? How will the district ensure this person has the necessary time and resources to successfully complete grant deliverables? c) Explain in detail how the district(s) you have selected meet the **CTE defined criteria** listed in the Eligible Applications section of these Program Guidelines. Include information for the criterion met by the individual districts.

a) District Leadership ESC Region 13's selection of Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD as EAF Planning Grant partners is based on longstanding professional relationships and each district's demonstrated commitment to system improvement. Both districts have participated for several years in the Austin Area Guidance Directors (GAD) Networking and Learning Group, a professional community co-led by ESC Region 13 for the past eight years. This collaboration has built strong working relationships with the counseling teams at both Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD and reflects a shared focus on improving advising systems and postsecondary outcomes. Lake Travis ISD appointed a Director of Counseling and Health Services in 2024. She has a strong background in secondary counseling and leadership, with prior experience in Comal ISD leading advising improvements aligned with CTE pathways and college and career readiness. She currently oversees the district's counseling program, College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) initiatives, and collaborates closely with CTE leadership to align academic and career pathways. Her focus on expanding individual student planning aligns closely with the Effective Advising Framework (EAF). Austin ISD selected their Executive Director of Counseling Services, as its EAF Project Lead. She has 18 years of counseling and leadership experience, including 10 years as a middle school counselor and 8 years in district leadership roles. She holds a Master's degree in Professional Counseling from St. Edward's University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Texas Tech University. She leads Austin ISD's K–12 counseling services, mental health and crisis teams, and registrar operations. She holds certifications in Superintendent, School Counseling, Special Education, and Generalist (4–8). Both the Director of Counseling and Health Service in Lake Travis and the Executive Director of Counseling Services in Austin are deeply committed to improving advising systems and align with the goals of the Effective Advising Framework.

b) EAF Project Lead Selection

Lake Travis ISD has named their Director of Counseling and Health Services as EAF Project Lead. A certified school counselor, she brings campus- and district-level leadership experience and oversees a wide range of counseling and CCMR initiatives. She partners closely with CTE leadership to strengthen advising practices and align career pathways. EAF planning will be embedded into the district's strategic counseling plan, with support from CTE and data teams. Austin ISD has selected their Executive Director of Counseling Services as EAF Project Lead. She leads the district's K–12 counseling services and collaborates with mental health teams and registrars. EAF planning will be fully integrated into Austin ISD's broader district improvement strategy, supported by CTE and data teams.

c) CTE Eligibility

Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD meet CTE eligibility based on high concentrator and completer counts. According to the 2023–2024 District CTE Enrollment Report, Lake Travis ISD reported 1,842 concentrators/completers in Grades 9–12, and Austin ISD reported 8,818, both exceeding the 200-student threshold. Austin ISD also qualifies by percentage, with 38.4% of its 9–12 students identified as CTE concentrators or completers, surpassing the 25% requirement. Both districts demonstrate strong CTE participation and a commitment to preparing students for high-skill, high-wage career pathways.

## Goals Objectives and Strategies

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD, in partnership with ESC Region 13, will implement a targeted planning program using Effective Advising Framework (EAF) Planning Grant funds to strengthen individual student planning systems and align them with the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. The focus is on building sustainable advising frameworks that support postsecondary success and align career pathways to regional workforce needs.

The program's goals are to strengthen the individual planning component of each district's comprehensive counseling program and ensure all students have access to academic and career advising aligned with high-skill, high-wage occupations. Districts will conduct needs assessments, including the EAF Diagnostic, to identify gaps in advising systems and student access to postsecondary planning. Based on these assessments, districts will develop grade-level advising benchmarks, refine CTE programming to improve pathway alignment, and strengthen partnerships with industry and postsecondary institutions.

Key activities include establishing district steering committees to lead the planning process, conducting diagnostics and needs assessments, defining vertical advising expectations, updating CTE programs to reflect labor market trends, and providing targeted professional development for school counselors and advising teams. Staff will also be encouraged to participate in statewide CTE and counseling conferences to expand their knowledge base and build professional networks.

Strategies will focus on aligning advising benchmarks with college and career readiness standards, strengthening vertical coherence across grade levels, integrating evidence-based advising practices from the Effective Advising Framework, and developing sustainable strategic plans to embed improvements beyond the grant period. Progress will be monitored through milestone check-ins, coaching logs, and stakeholder feedback to ensure activities remain aligned to program goals.

## Performance and Evaluation Measures

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 and data used to measure performance, as well as the processes that will be used to ensure the effectiveness of project objectives and strategies.

Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD, in partnership with ESC Region 13, will implement a targeted planning program using Effective Advising Framework (EAF) Planning Grant funds to strengthen individual student planning systems and align them with the Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. The focus is on building sustainable advising frameworks that support postsecondary success and align career pathways to workforce needs.
The major goals are to strengthen the individual planning component within each district's counseling program and ensure all students have access to academic and career advising connected to high-skill, high-wage occupations. Districts will conduct needs assessments, including the EAF Diagnostic, to identify gaps in advising practices and access. Grade-level advising benchmarks will be developed, and CTE programs will be refined to increase alignment with regional labor markets and postsecondary pathways.
Key activities include forming steering committees, completing diagnostics and needs assessments, establishing advising benchmarks, updating CTE pathways, delivering monthly coaching sessions, and providing targeted professional development. Staff will also be encouraged to participate in statewide CTE and counseling conferences to expand professional networks and resources.
The program's strategies focus on aligning advising benchmarks to readiness standards, strengthening vertical advising systems, integrating evidence-based practices from the Effective Advising Framework, and developing long-term strategic plans to sustain improvements beyond the grant period.

## Budget Justification

Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the proposed program. Include justification for the specific funding allocations in the proposed budget and provide detail on stipends and hours expected for services rendered.

• Payroll Costs (6100): ESC Region 13 will assign a Counseling Services Administrative Specialist to serve as the EAF Coach. Payroll costs for 15% of time dedicated to grant activities are budgeted at $25,031. This includes salary and benefits necessary to support coaching, technical assistance, and grant management deliverables.
• Professional and Contracted Services (6200): $6,710 is allocated for professional services and technology to support advising system improvements. These funds will be used for data tracking tools, technology platforms, and contracted services to enhance career pathway programs aligned to regional labor market needs and evidence-based comprehensive school counseling program
• Supplies and Materials (6300): $3,500 is budgeted for supplies and materials necessary to support professional development, planning sessions, and advising system updates across participating districts.
• Other Operating Costs (6400): Other Operating Costs (6400): Stipends for Effective Advising Framework (EAF) Leads and steering committee members total $30,000, divided evenly between Lake Travis ISD and Austin ISD.
• In Lake Travis ISD, local policy prohibits stipends for Directors, Coordinators, and Assistant Superintendents. Therefore, the full $15,000 stipend allocation is distributed between two eligible school counselors who are actively leading and implementing grant activities. While other steering committee members are not eligible to receive stipends, they will fully participate in the strategic planning and grant implementation process.
• In Austin ISD, the $15,000 stipend allocation is distributed among the EAF Project Lead and steering committee members, including CTE and special populations representatives. Stipend amounts reflect each individual's level of involvement and ti
• Indirect Costs: ESC Region 13 will apply the approved indirect cost rate of 7.439%, resulting in $3,009 in indirect costs.

All budgeted funds are aligned with TEA guidelines and are structured to meet the deliverables of the Effective Advising Framework Planning Grant

## Equitable Access and Participation

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this program.

- (●) The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this program.
- ( ) Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Group | | Barrier | |
| Group | | Barrier | |
| Group | | Barrier | |
| Group | | Barrier | |

## PNP Equitable Services

Are any private nonprofit schools located within the applicant's boundaries?

(●) Yes ( ) No

*If you answered "No" to the preceding question, stop here. You have completed the section. Proceed to the next page.*

Are any private nonprofit schools participating in the program?

( ) Yes (●) No

*If you answered "No" to the preceding question, stop here. You have completed the section. Proceed to the next page.*

## 5A: Assurances

- [ ] The LEA assures that it discussed all consultation requirements as listed in Section 1117(b)(1) and/or Section 8501(c)(1), as applicable, with all eligible private nonprofit schools located within the LEA's boundaries.
- [ ] The LEA assures the appropriate Affirmations of Consultation will be provided to TEA's PNP Ombudsman in the manner and time requested.

## 5B: Equitable Services Calculation

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. LEA's student enrollment | |
| 2. Enrollment of all participating private schools | |
| 3. Total enrollment of LEA and all participating PNPs (line 1 plus line 2) | |
| 4. Total current-year program allocation | |
| 5. LEA reservation for direct administrative costs, not to exceed the program's defined limit | |
| 6. Total LEA amount for provision of ESSA PNP equitable services (line 4 minus line 5) | |
| 7. Per-pupil LEA amount for provision of ESSA PNP equitable services (line 6 divided by line 3) | |
| **LEA's total required ESSA PNP equitable services reservation (line 7 times line 2)** | |

CDN 227950 Vendor ID 1741590220 Amendment #

**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.

*You may duplicate this page*

| Amended Section | Reason for Amendment |
|---|---|
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