

Welcome

Welcome to the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) 25-26 Cycle 4 application.

This consolidated application streamlines school system's access to grant funding, allotments, and in-kind supports and services across 15 opportunities.

Introduction

This application includes 15 initiatives available for school systems to apply for in LASO Cycle 4.

To ensure an informed selection, please follow these steps:

- **Review Program Guidelines:** Examine the program guidelines and resources for each initiative to understand its purpose, eligibility requirements, and assurances.
- **Engage Internal Teams:** Consult with key stakeholders (e.g., board, superintendent, district leaders, campus leaders etc.) to determine which initiatives best align with your school system's needs and capacity.
- **Select Initiatives:** Identify the initiatives that best support your local priorities.
- **Complete the Application:** Submit responses only for the initiatives your school system chooses to apply for.

Review each initiative by clicking the links to its program guidelines below:

Curriculum & Instruction Serving Grants

- [Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas \(LIFT\)](#)
 - *LIFT merges programs formerly known as Strong Foundations- SF, Texas Instructional Leadership- TIL, and Texas Lesson Study- TXLS*
- [LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support \(LIFT SI PLC\)](#)
 - *(available only for Title I Comprehensive, Targeted, and Addtl Targeted)*
- [School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant \(SI CISG\)](#)
 - *(available only for Title I Comprehensive, Targeted, and Addtl Targeted)*
- [Blended Learning Grant \(BLG\)](#)
 - *Two Cohorts: Academic – Math or RLA cohort and Strategic Operations Cohort*
- [AP Computer Science Principles \(APCSP\)](#)

Education and Training

- [PREP Program Allotment](#)
 - [PREP Residency Preservice Program](#)
 - [PREP Grow Your Own \(GYO\) Program](#)
 - [PREP Mentorship Program](#)
- [Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies \(TSS\) Grant](#)

More Time

- [Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program \(ADSY PEP\)](#)
 - *Two Cohorts: Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning*

Innovative School Models - Launch Grants

- [School Action Fund \(SAF\)](#)
- [Navigating Excellence through Targeted Supports \(NEXT\)](#)
- [Early College High School \(ECHS\)](#)
- [Pathways in Technology Early College High School \(P-TECH\)](#)
- [Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator \(VHPA\)](#)

Additional Resources and Considerations

Additional Resources

- [Initiative One-Pagers](#): Provides school systems with a concise summary of each initiative in LASO Cycle 4.
- [Eligibility & Prioritization Matrix](#): Provides eligibility and prioritization criteria that will enable a school system to predict the likelihood of receiving an award.
- [Initiative Selection Tool](#): Provides a Scenario map to guide selection of the right fitting initiative based on need.
- [Role and Responsibilities Insight Tool](#): Identifies the types of responsibilities for each role and show where roles overlap across initiatives.

Key Considerations for Submission

- Each school system may submit only one application. If multiple applications are submitted, only the most recent submission (based on timestamp) will be accepted.
- The application must be signed by the superintendent to be considered formally submitted. Only signed applications will be scored and considered for award. If the superintendent is unavailable to sign by the deadline, email LASO@texas.tea.gov for guidance.
- School systems have 60 days to complete the application. The application opens on October 3, 2025, and must be submitted by December 3, 2025, at 5:00 PM CT.

Overview

General School System Information

Select the ESC region that serves the school system.

ESC Region:	<input type="text" value="ESC 11: Fort Worth"/>
School System:	<input type="text" value="CASTLEBERRY ISD-(220917)"/>

School System Contact Information

Enter the contact information for the employee who is completing this application.

Note: There may be multiple roles at the school system completing different sections of this application - this entry is for the primary contact.

School System Employee Name:	<input type="text" value="June Ritchlin"/>
School System Employee Title:	<input type="text" value="Executive Director of Educational Leadership"/>
School System Employee Email:	<input type="text" value="ritchlinj@castleberryisd.net"/>

Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	<input type="text" value="Renee Smith Faulkner"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="smithr@castleberryisd.net"/>

School System Calendar

For the 2026–27 school year, select the option that best describes your school system’s instructional calendar:

- 165 or more instructional days
- Fewer than 165 instructional days
- Fewer than 165 instructional days in 2026–27, but planning to transition to 165 or more days in a future year

LASO Cycle 4 Assurances

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Commit to all assurances associated with the initiatives they intend to apply for.
Failure to agree to these assurances may prevent the school system from completing the application or being considered for awards.

- Ensure the superintendent approves participation in all selected initiatives.

If assurances are not met or the school system disengages from the supports/initiatives provided, TEA may impose conditions on the award, including terminating participation or reducing awarded funds.

- Meet the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#).

The school system certifies its commitment to all assurances listed above?

- Yes
 No

Initiative Selection

Below is the list of initiatives available in LASO Cycle 4. Review the [program guidelines](#) and [one-pagers](#) with key information for each initiative. Then select the set of initiatives that best meet your school system’s local needs and priorities.

Curriculum & Instruction Grants

- Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)
- LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support (LIFT SI PLC)
- School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG)
- Blended Learning Grant (BLG)
- Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP)

Education & Training Allotments and Grant

- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program
- PREP Mentorship Program
- Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant

More Time Grants

- Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP) Grant

Innovative School Models - Launch Grants

- School Action Fund (SAF)
- Navigating Excellence through Targeted Supports (NEXT)
- Early College High School (ECHS)
- Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)
- Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)

Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)

Initiative Description:

LIFT (Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas) is a three-year program designed to support Texas school systems in building the instructional and systems-level capacity needed to deliver high-quality learning experiences for all students. LIFT brings together the highest leverage components of Strong Foundations, Texas Instructional Leadership, and Texas Lesson Study, providing comprehensive support for school systems to adopt **high-quality instructional material (HQIM)** and implement **Bluebonnet Learning (BL)** over multiple years.

Review the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed below and indicate the school system’s acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Commit to selecting and implementing a [State Board of Education \(SBOE\)](#)-approved high-quality instructional material (HQIM) in the 2027–28 school year.

OR

- Commit to implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–27 school year.

Note: Participation in other grant programs does not disqualify applicants but may be considered during prioritization.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Commit to (with Board approval) implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–27 school year (if applying to the “Implementation Phase”) OR committing to selecting and implementing a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved high-quality instructional material (HQIM) in the 2027–28 school year (if applying to the “Planning Phase”).
- Contract with an Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 4 State Approved Provider List for LIFT.
- Submit Approved Provider contracts and required funding summary reports to TEA.
- Secure approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
- Appoint a designated LIFT lead as the primary point of contact and identify at least two additional contacts.
Note: The primary point of contact should be the equivalent of a senior academic team member or principal manager.
- Participate in required TEA-led activities, including a grant kick-off and communities of practice.
- Engage relevant school system and campus leaders, including special programs leadership, as well as teachers, instructional coaches, and special population educators in upfront training, implementation support, and coaching.
- Participate in a needs assessment of current instructional practices and materials.
- Establish or refine systems for instructional leadership, schoolwide routines, and observation and feedback.
- Submit all required grant deliverables, including instructional framework artifacts, implementation plans, school system-level instructional materials transition plan, campus-level implementation action plans, classroom, campus, and school system-level observation data and student outcomes data and progress updates as requested by the Approved Provider or the TEA.
- Participate in TEA-administered surveys and/or focus groups, as requested.
- Use grant funds in alignment with the required allocation structure and ensuring all expenditures support the goals of the LIFT program.
- Permit Approved Providers access to campuses to provide in-person support.
- Ensure teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols.
- Provide print materials for all participating teachers and students.
- Follow the year-long scope and sequence for the instructional materials.
- Meet the minimum number of instructional minutes for the instructional materials.
- Ensure that a number of instructional leaders, aligned with the school system size, will actively participate in monthly implementation support and coaching provided by the Approved Provider.
- Ensure that the school system cabinet regularly engages in data reflection/performance management routines.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed above?

- Yes
 No

Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) Grant

For each content area below, please indicate your district’s current intention regarding the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

You may select different options for each content area.

K–5 English or Spanish Language Arts and Reading (ELAR/SLAR)

1. For which activity are you seeking LIFT technical assistance support in K-5 ELAR or SLAR?

- Implement **Bluebonnet Learning K–5 ELAR** in 2026–27 and/or **Bluebonnet Learning K-5 SLAR** if approved by SBOE
 Select an **SBOE-approved HQIM** during the planning year in 2026-27 and implement that HQIM in 2027-28
 Neither of the above

K–5 Mathematics

2. For which activity are you seeking LIFT technical assistance support in K-5 Math?

- Implement **Bluebonnet Learning K–5 Math** in 2026–27 and/or **Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Math (Spanish)** if SBOE approved

- Select an **SBOE-approved HQIM** in 2026-27 during the planning year in 2026-27 and implement that HQIM in 2027-28
- Neither of the above

Secondary Mathematics

3. For which activity are you seeking LIFT technical assistance support in 6-8 and/or Algebra I Mathematics, or Geometry or Algebra II if approved by SBOE?

- Implement **Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Math** in 2026–27
- Select an **SBOE-approved HQIM** during the planning year in 2026-27 and implement that HQIM in 2027-28
- Neither of the above

Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) Grant

For each content area below, please indicate your school system’s current intention regarding the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

The LIFT grant provides monthly implementation support and coaching from a State-Approved Provider. By applying for this grant, your organization is committing to active participation in this support, specifically for instructional leaders – both at the campus and school system levels. Each participating campus must have one leader receiving coaching. Each of the participating campus and school system leaders must be directly involved in supporting teachers with the implementation of selected instructional materials. Additionally, the school system leader must be directly involved in supporting the campus leaders.

4. How many campus principals will the school system commit to receiving monthly implementation support and coaching visits from the Approved Provider?

Total number of principals to be coached :

5. How many school system-based instructional leaders (e.g. principal managers, executive director of instruction, associate superintendent) will the school system commit to receiving monthly implementation support and coaching visits from the Approved Provider?

Total number of leaders to be coached:

6. Does the school system commit to having, or working towards having, 165+ instructional days in the 2026-2027 academic year?

- Yes
- No

7. Has the school system implemented a CER OER product in previous academic years?

- Yes
- No

8. Enter the contact information for the school system’s primary point of contact for the LIFT grant.

Name:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="June Ritchlin"/>
Email:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="ritchlinj@castleberryisd.net"/>
Phone:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="817-252-2017"/>

9. Enter the contact information for the school system’s secondary points of contact for the LIFT grant.

Name:

Email: harperw@castleberryisd.net

Phone: 817-252-2031

Name: Kristen Schmitt

Email: schmittk@castleberryisd.net

Phone: 817-252-2037

LIFT School Improvement PLC (LIFT SI PLC)

Initiative Description:

The LIFT School Improvement PLC Support grant is a targeted, Title I-funded initiative designed to enhance implementation support for campuses participating in the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) program that are also identified for School Improvement. This grant provides additional resources, such as expanded PLC facilitation, increased observation and feedback, and individualized coaching to strengthen instructional systems and ensure effective use of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). The goal is to deepen and sustain effective instructional practices by reinforcing the conditions necessary for strong HQIM implementation, ultimately improving student outcomes on federally identified campuses.

Review the Eligibility Criteria, Initiative Assurances, and Initiative Requirements listed below and indicate the school system's acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Eligible campuses include campuses that are Title I served with a 2025 federal accountability identification, including Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), or Additional Targeted Support (ATS). Comprehensive campuses in their second year of identification (Comprehensive Reidentified or Comprehensive Progress) are also eligible. Campuses must remain in operation during the grant cycle and remain Title I served for the 2026-27 school year.

Note: A school system is eligible to apply to both Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) and LIFT SI PLC Support grants, but if both are awarded, the school system must select the same Approved Provider for both LIFT and the LIFT SI PLC Support grant.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Implement a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–27 school year.
- Secure approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
- Contract with the same provider from the LASO Cycle 4 State Approved Provider list that is providing technical assistance for the LIFT program for PLC supports.
- Engage relevant school system and campus leaders, as well as teachers and instructional coaches, in upfront training, implementation support, and coaching.

Note: These individuals must be in addition to and distinct from leaders receiving coaching through the LIFT program.

- Submit all required grant deliverables for each school year for the life of the grant.
- Submit provider contracts and required funding summary reports to TEA.
- Appoint a designated lead as the primary point of contact and identify at least two additional contacts.
- Permit Approved Providers access to campuses to provide in-person support.
- Ensure teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols.
- Provide print materials for all participating teachers and students.
- Follow the year-long scope and sequence for instructional materials.
- Meet the minimum number of instructional minutes for the instructional materials.
- Use grant funds in alignment with the required allocation structure and ensure all expenditures support the goals of the LIFT program.
- Participate in required TEA-led activities, including a grant kick-off.

Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Provide an additional campus leader—distinct from those supported through the LIFT Program—who will directly support teachers or campus leaders implementing the selected instructional materials.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria, Initiative Assurances, and Initiative Requirements listed above?

- Yes
- No

LIFT School Improvement PLC (LIFT SI PLC) (cont.)

Activity Selection for the LIFT School Improvement PLC (LIFT SI PLC) Initiative

Select the activities for which the school system is seeking LIFT SI PLC Support technical assistance for.

- Bluebonnet Learning K–5 ELAR or Bluebonnet Learning K–5 SLAR if SBOE approved in 2026–27
- Bluebonnet Learning K–5 Math or Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Math (Spanish) if SBOE approved in 2026–27
- Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Math in 2026–27

LIFT School Improvement PLC (LIFT SI PLC) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Bluebonnet Learning K–5 ELAR and/or SLAR Activity

1. Select the 2025 Federally Identified and Title-I serving campus(es) that will be implementing the Bluebonnet Learning K–5 ELAR and/or SLAR Activity.

Note: This list contains all campuses in your district (that may or may not be Federally Identified and Title-I serving).

A V CATO EL-(220917101)
CASTLEBERRY EL-(220917102)
JOY JAMES ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP-(220917104)

2. Indicate the number of campus leaders that will be receiving PLC support, 1-2 per campus.

Note: Each individual must be directly supporting teachers or campus leaders implementing the selected instructional material.

These individuals must be in addition to and distinct from leaders receiving coaching through the LIFT program.

A V CATO EL-(220917101): 2
CASTLEBERRY EL-(220917102): 2
JOY JAMES ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP-(220917104): 2

LIFT School Improvement PLC (LIFT SI PLC) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Bluebonnet Learning K–5 Math and/or K-5 Math (Spanish) Activity

1. Select the 2025 Federally Identified and Title-I serving campus(es) that will be implementing the Bluebonnet Learning K–5 Math and/or K-5 Math (Spanish) Activity.

Note: This list contains all campuses in your district (that may or may not be Federally Identified and Title-I serving).

A V CATO EL-(220917101)
CASTLEBERRY EL-(220917102)
JOY JAMES ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP-(220917104)

2. Indicate the number of campus leaders that will be receiving PLC support, 1-2 per campus.

Note: Each individual must be directly supporting teachers or campus leaders implementing the selected instructional material.

These individuals must be in addition to and distinct from leaders receiving coaching through the LIFT program.

A V CATO EL-(220917101): 2
CASTLEBERRY EL-(220917102): 2
JOY JAMES ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP-(220917104): 2

LIFT School Improvement PLC (LIFT SI PLC) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the LIFT School Improvement PLC (LIFT SI PLC) Grant

For each content area below, please indicate your school system's current intention regarding the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

1. Enter contact information for your school system's primary point of contact for the LIFT SI PLC Support grant.

Name:	June Ritchlin
Email:	ritchlinj@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2017

2. Enter contact information for your school system's secondary points of contact for the LIFT SI PLC Support grant.

Name:	Whitney Harper
Email:	harperw@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2031

Name:	Kristen Schmitt
Email:	schmittk@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2037

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP)

Initiative Description:

The APCSP Grant program is designed to meet workforce demands and provide valuable student pathways to high-wage and in-demand careers. According to the College Board, students who took an APCSP course were twice as likely to continue along a computer science pathway. Students who took an APCSP course in high school were three times more likely to major in computer science in college, with this data being consistent across various demographics. With the LASO 4 APCSP Grant funds, Texas public schools can begin to build, expand, and sustain a computer science pathway.

Review the Eligibility Criteria, Initiative Assurances, and Initiative Requirements listed below and indicate the school system's acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

- All Texas school systems are eligible.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Contract with an Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 4 Approved Provider List for curriculum and training.
- Adhere to all Statutory and TEA Program Requirements and Assurances as noted in the 2025-2026 APCSP Grant Program Guidelines.
- Adhere to all APCSP Grant performance measures as noted in the 2025-2026 APCSP Grant Program Guidelines.
- Use grant funds only for APCSP classroom supplies and technology, teacher training, and directly related expenses for implementing an APCSP course.
- Administer the APCSP exam to district-enrolled students participating in the APCSP course, at no cost to the student.

Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Complete the necessary district process to obtain school board approval to include the APCSP course in the district's course catalog for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Provide the APCSP course exam to enrolled students free of charge.
- Provide the technology, equipment and any additional resources required for a successfully functioning APCSP course.
- Publicize the APCSP course offering to relevant stakeholders, high school students and their parents/guardians.
- Recruit, onboard, and arrange for professional development for certified teachers to teach the APCSP course.
- Provide a description of how the funds will be used, if awarded.
- Continue providing the current level or increase the number of APCSP course opportunities.
- Provide the number of district campuses that will offer the APCSP grant opportunity and the number of teachers to be trained.
- Provide the necessary student support structures to prepare enrolled students to score 3 or higher on the APCSP exam.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria, Initiative Assurances, and Initiative Requirements listed above?

- Yes
 No

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP) Grant.

1. If this grant is awarded, briefly describe how the school system plans to use the funds provided with this grant.

We will expand an APCS Principles course for all students to access STEM especially those underrepresented in CS fields. Funds will cover UTeach training curriculum lab materials exam fees and stipends for PL and tutoring. It provides students access to extended instruction and mentoring for AP exam prep and college-level coursework creates equitable pathways into high-demand fields and supports long-term sustainability as we integrate APCS into existing pathways and continue PL locally.

2. Does the school system currently offer College Board Advanced Placement courses for student enrollment?

- Yes
 No

3. Does the school system currently offer an APCSP course on one or more campuses?

- Yes
 No

4. Has the school system participated in any other APCSP grant opportunities?

- Yes
 No

5. If awarded, how many of the school system's campuses will offer the APCSP course? (*Min: 1, Max: Not to exceed the number of available campuses*)

1

6. If awarded, how many teachers will be trained during the summer of 2026 to teach one or more sections of the APCSP course in fall 2026?

7. Enter contact information for the school system's primary point of contact for the APCSP grant

Name:	Stephanie Martinez
Title:	Director of CTE
Email:	martinezs@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	682-551-7440

Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts

Initiative Description:

The Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Grant is a voluntary, three-year grant initiative designed to support school systems and open-enrollment charter schools in developing and sustaining high-quality ADSY programs.

The ADSY grant provides participating local education agencies (LEAs) with comprehensive support to design programs that are grounded in research and aligned with evidence-based practices that improve student outcomes. The program structure includes:

- Year 1: Planning - School systems engage in a year-long planning process with TEA-approved technical assistance providers to design a strategic, research-aligned ADSY model tailored to their local context.
- Years 2-3: Implementation Refinement and Continuous Improvement - School systems receive ongoing support to strengthen program quality, monitor outcomes, and make data-informed adjustments to ensure long-term success and sustainability.

This structured approach builds school system capacity in program design, strategic planning, and change management. It ensures that additional instructional days are effectively implemented and aligned with school system priorities to maximize academic impact.

School systems participating in the Grade 6- 8 Expansion opportunity pilot will follow a slightly shorter timeline, with grant support lasting for two years.

School systems will be able to select between two ADSY models, Full Year and Summer, to receive planning and implementation support aligned with research-based best practices.

Review the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed below and indicate the school system's acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Participating campuses must operate on a 175-day instructional calendar or have a board-approved plan to implement such a calendar by the 2026–2027 school year.
- Campus must be implementing an IMRA-approved product as their Tier 1 during the regular school year.

Note: For Campuses That Have Not Previously Accessed ADSY Funding Under the ADSY Planning and Execution Program (PEP)

- The participating campus must serve students in one or more grade levels within PK–5.

Note: Previously Participated in ADSY PEP and Seek to Expand to Grades 6–8

- The participating campus(es) must serve students in one or more grade levels within 6-8.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Assign a qualified and experienced project manager with district-level decision-making authority who can align campus-based actions with district goals, and who will:
 - Attend all Learning Community professional development workshops.
 - Participate in calls with the designated approved provider.
 - Lead the District's ADSY PEP steering committee.
 - Ensure timely and high-quality completion of the LEA's ADSY PEP strategic plan and deliverables.
- Form a cross-departmental Steering Committee that meets at least monthly and includes representatives from both the Finance and Curriculum & Instruction teams to guide strategic planning.
- Attend and actively participate in all required grant orientation meetings, Professional Development sessions, Technical Assistance (TA) meetings, and maintain open, responsive communication with the assigned TA provider throughout the grant period.
- Complete the comprehensive ADSY PEP Strategic Plan using the provided planning resources and templates, and submit it by the

designated deadlines.

- Understand that continuation in the ADSY PEP grant is contingent upon demonstrated effort to implement feedback, adherence to all grant requirements, and evidence of yearly progress.
- Failure to secure board approval of an ADSY-eligible calendar (defined as a 175-day base instructional calendar with 75,600 operational minutes) for the 2026–2027 school year at participating campuses will result in ineligibility to continue in ADSY PEP.
- Maintain the annual ADSY-eligible calendar approval process at participating campuses for the full duration of the grant, and acknowledge that failure to secure board approval in future years during the ADSY PEP grant cycle will result in ineligibility for continued funding, if available.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed above?

- Yes
- No

Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts (cont.)

ADSY Calendar Requirement:

Additional Days School Year funding is the foundation of the ADSY grant and includes an eligibility requirement of conducting a minimum of 175-day instructional calendar at the participating campuses.

1. Does the school system agree to the ADSY grant requirement of implementing and maintaining a base academic calendar of 175 instructional days and 75,600 operational minutes, and adding at least 25 Additional Days (aligned to the approved model) to the calendar at the eligible campuses for the full duration of the grant?

- Yes
- No

Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts (cont.)

ADSY Pathway:

1. Has the school system previously participated in the ADSY Full Year or Summer Cohort?

- Yes
- No

1a. Please select the option that best represents your school system's current ADSY implementation status. This will help route to the correct application sections:

Note: The school system has previously participated in the ADSY Full Year or ADSY Summer program with grant support. For this application cycle, the school system may apply for ADSY grant with up to three new-to-ADSY campuses.

- Category 1 – New PK–5 Campus Participation

Applying for one or more campuses serving grades PK–5 that have never received ADSY formula funding under any prior ADSY grant.

- Category 2 – Expansion to Grades 6–8

Previously participated in ADSY (Summer or Full Year) and is now seeking to expand ADSY implementation to include grades 6–8

Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts (cont.)

School systems interested in Category 2 –Expansion to Grades 6–8

Note: The school system has previously participated in the ADSY Full Year or Summer cohort with grant support. For this application cycle, the school system may apply to ADSY with up to three new campuses.

Enter the number of ADSY eligible campuses the school system is applying for. (Min: 1, Max: 3 but not to exceed the number of available campuses)

1

Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts (cont.)

ADSY school systems who are interested in Category 2 –Expansion to Grades 6–8

1. Please select the first ADSY-eligible campuses

IRMA MARSH MIDDLE-(220917041)

2. Please indicate which ADSY cohort the school system is applying for:

- ADSY Summer
- ADSY Full Year

3. Does the selected campus currently operate on a 175+ instructional day calendar (not including staff development waivers) for the 2025-2026 school year?

- Yes
- No

3a. Upload the board-approved calendar.

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[Castleberry ISD- ADSY 6-8 Expansion- 175 Day Calendar 2025-2026.pdf](#)

192KB
application/pdf

4. Is the school system currently implementing an IMRA-approved, full-subject HQIM for Math at ALL the campuses anticipated to participate in ADSY PEP?

- Yes
- No

5. What is the full name of the Math instructional material(s)

Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Mathematics 6-8

6. Is the school system currently implementing an IMRA-approved, full-subject HQIM for RLA at ALL the campuses anticipated to participate in ADSY PEP?

- Yes
- No

7. What is the full name of the RLA instructional material(s)

Not available for 6-8 RLA yet

Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts (cont.)

Initiative Specific Requirements for the ADSY Summer Cohort

Note: School systems that agree with program specific requirements will be prioritized.

1. Does the school system agree to implement an ADSY summer program lasting between 25 and 30 days, with each day including at least 360 minutes (6 hours) of total programming, which must include::

- A minimum of 180 minutes (3 hours) dedicated to math and reading instruction.
- At least 60 minutes (1 hour) of TEKS-based enrichment activities aligned with core subjects, based on local needs and STAAR data.
- The remaining 120 minutes (2 hours) should include:
 1. 60 minutes (1 hour) of traditional enrichment activities, such as arts, science exploration, or sports.
 2. 60 minutes (1 hour) can be dedicated to transitions, lunch, and other flexible needs.

- Yes
 No

2. Does the school system agree to implement a summer academic strategy that is data-driven and that aligns with both the regular-year HQIM and regular-year academic strategy?

- Yes
 No

3. Does the school system agree to implement a staffing model that ensures teachers are assigned to students in the same grade level they taught in the previous year or will teach in the following year?

- Yes
 No

4. Does the school system understand that teachers who meet the school system's certification requirements must provide at least three hours of academic instruction focused on math and reading and one hour of enrichment aligned to core subjects on dedicated ADSY summer program days?

- Yes
 No

5. Does the school system agree to develop a Summer Program Impact Report each year using the tools and templates provided by the grant program and share the Impact Report with TEA and stakeholders?

- Yes
 No

Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for both Cohorts

1. Does the school system currently have a formal partnership in a written agreement with an SBEC-approved educator preparation program (EPP)?

- Yes
 No

2. Are any of the campuses in this ADSY application currently on the [Resource Campus Eligibility List](#)?

- Yes
- No

PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment

Allotment Opportunity:

The PREP Residency Preservice Program empowers school systems to play a central role in cultivating a pipeline of well-prepared, highly qualified teachers by embedding paid preservice teacher residency candidates directly into classrooms of highly qualified host teachers. Through close collaboration with educator preparation programs, participating school systems support teacher residents in earning an enhanced standard teaching certificate while gaining hands-on experience on campuses across the school system. By expanding the reach and effectiveness of residency models, the PREP Residency Preservice Program enhances instructional capacity and increases student access to skilled educators—ultimately advancing educational outcomes.

1. Does the school system wish to be considered for this Allotment Opportunity?

- Yes
- No

PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment

Initiative Description:

The PREP Residency Preservice Program empowers school systems to play a central role in cultivating a pipeline of well-prepared, highly qualified teachers by embedding paid preservice teacher residency candidates directly into classrooms of highly qualified host teachers. Through close collaboration with educator preparation programs, participating school systems support teacher residents in earning an enhanced standard teaching certificate while gaining hands-on experience in school systems schools. By expanding the reach and effectiveness of residency models, the PREP Residency Preservice Program enhances instructional capacity and increases student access to skilled educators—ultimately advancing educational outcomes.

Review the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed below and indicate the school system's acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Any school system, which includes open-enrollment charter schools, and SB 1882 Operating Partners who read and agree to the requirements in relevant sections of the Texas Education and Texas Administrative codes cited in these guidelines is eligible for the PREP Allotment.
- School systems who are partnered with an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) approved by the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) to offer the teacher residency route must have formal written partnership agreement(s) with the EPP(s). School systems will have residents for SY 26-27.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Read and abide by TEC §21.902 (PREP Preservice Program).
- Read and abide by TEC §21.904 (PREP Residency Preservice Program).
- Read and abide by TEC §48.157 (PREP Program Allotment).
- Read and abide by TAC related to the PREP Residency Preservice Program, which will be posted in the Texas Register for public comment during the 2025-26 school year and become effective prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year.

Note: TEA anticipates sharing specific dates related to rulemaking in Fall 2025.

For more details regarding Texas Education Code TEC §21.904 (PREP Residency Preservice Program) and TEC §§21.902, 48.157 see: [PREP RESIDENCY LASO 4 Pop Out Document](#).

- Appoint a representative to engage in all required PREP Allotment & PREP Residency Preservice Program communications.
- Have a written agreement with an educator preparation program for PREP Residency Preservice Program implementation by the 2026-2027 school year.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed above?

- Yes
- No

PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment

1. How many teacher residents does the school system anticipate participating during SY 2026-27?

(Min: 1, Max: 40 as per TEC §48.157 PREP Program Allotment)

6

2. Enter the contact information for the school systems representative appointed as the primary point of contact for all PREP Residency Preservice Program-related activities.

Name:	Kathryn Walker
Title:	Director of Talent Acquisition and Development
Email:	walker1@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2003

3. Enter the contact information for an additional point of contact for all PREP Residency Preservice Program-related activities.

Name:	June Ritchlin
Title:	Executive Director of Educational Leadership
Email:	ritchlinj@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2017

5. Select the SBEC approved residency program partnership which the school system is currently working to finalize.

Note: The school system must submit a formal written partnership agreement in the spring as part of the process to verify acceptance of the award.

Texas Wesleyan University

6. Enter the contact information for the Educator Preparation Program point of contact for the PREP Residency Preservice program.

Name:	Carlos Martinez
Title:	Dean of the School of Education
Email:	cmartinez@txwes.edu
Phone:	817-531-4269

The applicant must agree to train its resident cooperating teachers via the Texas Mentorship Training.

TEA anticipates proposing rule to further defining cooperating teachers for the purpose of PREP Residency Preservice Program by adopting the definition of host teacher currently in TAC §228.95.

Roles

- Resident Cooperating (Host) Teacher:** For the PREP Preservice Residency Program, statute defines a cooperating teacher as a classroom teacher who is a school system employee; has at least three full school years of teaching experience with a superior record of assisting students in achieving improvement in student performance; and is paired with one or more teacher candidates (new TEC §21.902).

- **PREP Mentorship Training Requirements:** Summer 2026, Fall 2026, Winter 2026-27 and Spring 2027 (24-30 total hours)

School systems must self-report the estimated number of resident cooperating teachers that would attend training for SY 2026-27.

7. How many host teachers does the school system estimate will attend the training? (*Min: 1, Max: 40*).

Note: This should correlate to the anticipated number of residents the school system will have in SY 2026-27.

4

PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program Allotment

Allotment Opportunity:

Review the program descriptions for both PREP GYO and PREP Residency Preservice Program and choose your answer below:

Note: Per TEC §21.906(c), school systems may participate in the PREP GYO Program only if they have been approved to participate in a partnership preservice program (PREP Residency Preservice Program). School systems must apply for the PREP Residency Preservice Program

1. Does the school system wish to be considered for this Allotment Opportunity?

- Yes
- No

PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program Allotment

Initiative Description:

The PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program enables school systems, through partnering with qualified institutions of higher education and educator preparation programs, to establish innovative staffing pipelines that prepare and retain educators and thereby, increase student access to high-quality classroom teachers. The PREP GYO program provides funding through which participating school systems support (A) school system employees who do not hold a teaching certificate in completing a bachelor's degree and enrolling in a preparation program to ultimately become a certified teacher while employed by the school system and (B) high school students in completing career and technical education courses that help prepare the students to become classroom teachers. Funding may be used to implement the PREP Grow Your Own Program and pay tuition and fees for participating students or employees.

Review the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed below and indicate the school system's acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Any school system, which includes open-enrollment charter schools, and SB 1882 Operating Partners who read and agree to the requirements in relevant sections of the Texas Education and Texas Administrative codes cited in these guidelines is eligible for the PREP Allotment.
- School systems may participate in the PREP GYO Program only if they have been approved to participate in a partnership preservice program. For the LASO 4 application cycle, school systems must apply for and also participate in the PREP Residency Preservice Program.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Read and abide by TEC §21.906 (PREP Grow Your Own Program).
- Read and abide by TEC §48.157 (PREP Program Allotment).
- Read and abide by TAC sections related to the PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program, which will be posted to the Texas Register for public comment during the 2025-26 school year and become effective prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year.

Note: TEA anticipates sharing specific dates related to rulemaking in fall 2025.

For more details regarding Texas Education Code TEC §21.906 (PREP Grow Your Own Program) and TEC §48.157 (PREP Program Allotment) see: [PREP GYO LASO 4 Pop Out Document](#).

- Appoint a representative to engage in all required PREP Allotment & PREP Grow Your Own Program communications.
- Form a written agreement partnership with an institution of higher education and educator preparation program, as applicable, to support PREP GYO Program implementation. The partnership to adhere to program assurances and submit information to the agency upon request by August 2026:
 - School system employees who do not hold a teaching certificate in completing a bachelor's degree to enable the person to enroll in an

educator preparation program and become a certified teacher while employed by the school system, and if applicable.

- High-school students in completing career and technical education courses that help prepare the students to become classroom teachers.
- Form a written agreement partnership with an institution of higher education or educator preparation program by the SY 2026-27 that supports (A) school system employees who do not hold a teaching certificate in completing a bachelor's degree to enable the person to enroll in an educator preparation program and become a certified teacher while employed by the school system, and if applicable (B) high school students in completing career and technical education courses that help prepare the students to become classroom teachers.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed above?

- Yes
 No

PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program Allotment (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program.

1. Enter the contact information for the school system representative appointed as the primary point of contact for all PREP GYO Program-related activities.

Name:	Kathryn Walker
Title:	Director of Talent Acquisition and Development
Email:	walkerk1@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2003

2. Enter the contact information for an additional point of contact for all PREP GYO Program-related activities.

Name:	Stephanie Martinez
Title:	Director of CTE
Email:	martinezs@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	682-551-7440

The PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program is designed to form partnerships that support the following:

- High school students in completing career and technical education courses that help prepare the students to become classroom teachers.
- School system employees who do not hold a teaching certificate in completing a bachelor's degree to enable the person to enroll in an educator preparation program and become a certified teacher while employed by the school system.

Note: Funding will be determined by each participating employee (TEC §48.157(b)(4)) and can be used to pay tuition and fees for high school students and employees participating in the program.

3. Which programming is the school system aiming to support through the PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program?

- Supporting school system employees with completing their bachelor's degree and earning teacher certification
 Supporting employees and high school education & training

4. How many employees does the school system anticipate participating in the PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program?

(Min: 1, Max: 40 as per TEC §48.157 PREP Program Allotment)

20

5. The TEA may provide in-kind technical support for PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program planning and implementation. If these supports

were made available, would the school system be interested in joining a webinar to learn more about them?

Note: If selecting yes, the primary and additional points of contact will be contacted with more information.

- Yes
- No

Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant

Initiative Description:

The Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant focuses on making staffing and scheduling decisions driven by immediate and long-term instructional needs. This is a two-year grant designed to provide in-kind technical assistance and other support to school systems and educator preparation program (EPP) partnerships to design and implement paid, year-long, high-quality, and sustainable teacher residencies across SY 2026-27 and SY 2027-28. The grant provides partial funding for at least one school system staff member to oversee the program, including coordination between the school system, technical assistance provider, and EPP.

Review the Eligibility Criteria, Initiative Assurances, and Initiative Requirements listed below and indicate the school system's acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Have a signed [EPP Verification Form](#) (template posted with the application) from each EPP partner that has a State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC)-approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route ([TTRPR](#)).
- Not a recipient of the SY 2024-25 Sustainable Residency Continuation Grant (see award list [here](#)).
- Not a recipient of the SY 2025-27 Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable Paid Teacher Residency Program (see award list [here](#)).

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- **General Initiative Assurances**
 - Appoint a School System Strategic Staffing Lead who will serve at least 20% of their time and effort to oversee the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant and as the point of contact for the ESC technical assistance provider? Note: School System Strategic Staffing Lead, in conjunction with the ESC, will coordinate with other school system staff on the design and implementation teams to schedule grant activities and complete program deliverables.
 - Develop clear companion guides, which include parameters for the selected strategic staffing model and communication plans, and share them with all stakeholders involved with resident placement in the school system and educator preparation programs (EPPs).
 - Share data, such as historic teacher vacancies or student characteristic data, with the ESC technical assistance provider to inform design and implementation year decisions.
 - Submit data to TEA on grant implementation and outcomes including, but not limited to the following:
 - Number of teacher residents participating in the year-long paid teacher residency.
 - School placement of residents during their residency year.
 - Selected strategic staffing models.
 - Resident and host teacher compensation.
 - Characteristics of teacher residents participating in the program.
 - Number and type of teacher certifications awarded to teacher residents.
- **Sustainable Funding for Residencies**
 - Design and implement a strategic staffing model plan that will ensure that the teacher residency model will be sustainably funded by the school system by school year (SY) 2028-29.
Note: the plan must include sustainable funding for teacher residents and host teacher stipends/salaries.
- **School System and EPP Partnerships**
 - Establish a partnership with at least one EPP that has been approved by the SBEC to offer the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route (TTRPR).
 - Sign a letter of commitment or a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the ESC technical assistance provider. The EPP(s) must also confirm their commitment to the strategic staffing design and implementation process with the applicant.
 - Set shared goals for school system paid resident placements in mutually beneficial staffing model positions.
 - Hold structured governance meetings at least quarterly to analyze teacher resident data and develop plans for teacher residency continuous improvement during the SY 2027-28 residency implementation year.
 - Work collaboratively with your EPP partner(s) to design a strategic staffing model and corresponding stipend amounts.
 - Adhere to all educator preparation program requirements for residency in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 228.
 - Provide preferential hiring, to the greatest extent possible, to teacher residents who have successfully completed the teacher residency program and received enhanced standard certification.

• **Technical Assistance for Design and Implementation**

- Work with an ESC technical assistance provider for the SY 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years to make key decisions and design structures that enable internal capacity to continue the strategic staffing models without the support of the technical assistance provider in SY 2028-29 and beyond.
- Ensure that a designated team of leaders from the school system, campuses, and EPP(s) will actively participate in strategic staffing model training and technical assistance support activities beginning in SY 2026-27.
- Attend sustainability meetings with their technical assistance provider each semester of SY 2027-28 (implementation year) to determine sustainable strategic staffing model and funding sources, as applicable, after the life of the grant.
- Manages or directly supports the school system’s PREP Residency Preservice Program if awarded the PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment.

Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- The school system has **NOT** participated in either the 2024-2025 Sustainable Residency Continuation Grant or the 2025-2027 Texas Strategic Staffing Grant for Sustainable, Paid Teacher Residency Program.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria, Initiative Assurances, and Initiative Requirements listed above?

- Yes
- No

Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant

1. Enter the contact information for the school system representative appointed as the primary point of contact for all Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies grant-related activities.

Name:	Kathryn Walker
Title:	Director of Talent Acquisition and Development
Email:	walkerkl@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2003

1a. Top three responsibilities in their role:

Hiring/Staffing, Strategic Compensation, Professional Learning

1b. How often does this person meet with school system executive leadership (e.g., superintendent, assistant superintendent, chief financial officer)?

Sup. 4 times monthly, CFO 2 times weekly, Asst. Sup. 2 times monthly

1c. How will this person help sustain paid residencies in the school system after the conclusion of this grant?

The Director of Talent Acquisition and Development (DTAD) serving as the primary point of contact for this grant is strategically positioned to embed the paid residency program into the school system's permanent infrastructure. Sustainability will be achieved through three focused initiatives—fiscal transition strategic compensation and program governance ensuring the program is fiscally solvent and yields exceptional talent retention after the conclusion of the LASO 4 PREP grant. For fiscal transition the DTAD will collaborate directly with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to transition the residency stipends from a temporary grant expense

to a dedicated recurring operational line item within the annual district budget. During annual salary negotiations and budget planning the DTAD will advocate for the paid residency as the district's most effective and predictive talent pipeline. This requires moving the investment to the front-end of the recruitment budget treating the stipend as a core human capital cost rather than a discretionary expense. Additionally the DTAD will systematically track and report the cost savings realized by the Texas Strategic Staffing (TSS) models—such as reductions in high-cost substitute usage decreased turnover rates among residency graduates and lower external recruitment expenses. The DTAD will use these documented operational savings to generate the internal budget capacity necessary to permanently fund the stipends. By linking the program to the District's strategic compensation model the DTAD can ensure the paid residency yields a measurable return on investment (ROI). By leveraging funding yielded through the strategic compensation initiatives the District can offer competitive performance-based salary schedules and clear career pathways for both returning teachers and high-performing residency graduates. The DTAD will use the new strategic compensation model—which establishes salary schedules based on roles and employee performance tied to student outcomes—to create accelerated salary pathways for high-performing residency graduates. This ensures graduates see a clear financial incentive to remain in the district. The DTAD will implement a tracking system that follows residency graduates for their first three to five years of teaching. By proving that the investment results in significantly higher retention rates than traditional hiring methods the DTAD can establish a quantifiable business case for sustaining the stipend program with district funds. To protect the program from staff turnover the DTAD will ensure the program's success is tied to District systems not individuals. The DTAD will formally embed the residency pathway into the District's official hiring and new-teacher induction policies. This means that the residency program becomes the default official pathway for acquiring talent in high-need areas making it mandatory for future Talent Acquisition directors to support. The DTAD will establish a comprehensive project management template for governance. This template will include Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for managing university partnerships calculating stipend payments and processing intern contracts. This institutionalized knowledge supported by cross-training in Talent Acquisition and Finance ensures the program can continue seamlessly even in the event of turnover in the Strategic Staffing Lead role.

1d. How will the school system support this role in the event of turnover? Who else will have knowledge and skills for this work?

The school system will support the Strategic Staffing Lead role against turnover by prioritizing knowledge institutionalization and cross-functional redundancy. This ensures the program's success is tied to district processes not just to one individual. The Director of Talent Acquisition and Development will establish a comprehensive project management template with key roles responsibilities timelines reflection/analysis of outcomes for future modifications and evidence of effectiveness of the program. This template will be housed on a shared network drive (or intranet) and will be the single source of truth detailing not only current assignments but also the rationale behind all decisions ensuring a new Lead understands the "why" and not just the "what." All Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)—such as residency retention rates cost-per-hire savings and the impact on student outcomes—will be tracked in real-time shared dashboards accessible to the DTA and CFO team. This makes the program's evidence of effectiveness transparent and readily available regardless of personnel changes. Detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be created for all recurring tasks including stipend calculation and payment university partnership management and the annual performance-based compensation review process. By distributing the core financial operational and strategic knowledge across the Talent Acquisition and the CFO's team the district ensures that the functions of the Strategic Staffing Lead are resilient enabling the program to continue seamlessly even during periods of leadership transition.

2. Enter the contact information for an additional school system representative appointed as the secondary point of contact for all Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies grant-related activities.

Name:	June Ritchlin
Title:	Executive Director of Educational Leadership
Email:	ritchlinj@castleberryisd.net
Phone:	817-252-2017

4. Who are the **NEW** SBEC-approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route Educator Preparation Program ([TTRPR](#)) partnerships you are working with or have worked with to finalize a formal agreement for SYs 2025-2026 and/or 2026-2027?

*Note: Select only the **NEW** partnerships for SY 2025-26 and/or SY 2026-27.*

Texas Wesleyan University

5. Attach a signed [EPP Verification Form](#) from each of the school system's EPP partners with a State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC)-approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route (TTRPR).

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[Castleberry ISD- TTRPR- Verification-form Texas Wesleyan University.pdf](#)

195KB
application/pdf

Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)

Initiative Description:

The Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program is an open-enrollment initiative that offers campuses an opportunity to plan to build a P-TECH within their school system. Designed to support underserved and at-risk students, P-TECH schools offer opportunities for students to earn a high school diploma while simultaneously earning industry certifications, and/or an associate degree on or before the sixth anniversary of a student's first day of high school. The P-TECH program requires a campus to maintain a partnership with an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide dual credit opportunities to the P-TECH academy students and with a business/industry partner to provide work-based learning experiences.

Review the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed below and indicate the school system's acceptance.

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to serving students in Grades 9–12
or will begin serving students in Grade 9
or students in Grades 9 and 10 in the first year of implementation (2027-2028) and will progressively scale up by adding at least one grade level per year after the first year of implementation.
- All current P-TECH planning, provisional or designated campuses are not eligible to apply.
- All recipients of previous P-TECH Planning and Implementation or LASO Grants are ineligible to apply.
- Any campus that has been given CCRSM Needs Improvement status is not eligible to apply.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- P-TECH campuses must establish recruitment and enrollment processes and requirements that will not exclude or discourage the enrollment of any of the subpopulations of at-risk students, including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency or who have failed a state-administered assessment.
- P-TECH campuses must provide for a TEA CTE program of study that enables a participating student in grade levels 9–12 to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses. Describe the course of study that the school is planning to offer and how it expands upon current

offerings. Include how the course of study will enable a student to combine high school courses and postsecondary courses and identify crosswalks, sequences of courses, degrees/certificates/certifications earned, and work-based education that will be available to students at every grade level. Describe how the selected course of study will address regional workforce needs.

- P-TECH campuses must enter into a MOU with regional industry or business partners in Texas and must meet the following guidelines:
 - Provide 100% of participating students access to appropriate work-based education at every level.
 - Address regional workforce needs.
 - The industry/business partner will give a student who receives work-based training or education from the partner with a P-TECH first priority in interviewing for any jobs for which the student is qualified that are available upon the student's completion of the program.
 - Review the MOU at least every two years and update as necessary the name of the regional industry or business partner and describe how the proposed program will meet the requirements for the partnership with the industry/business partner.
- At TEA's request, P-TECH campuses must submit a data report of leadership team members, meeting dates, and agendas (including attendance) posted on the school's website.
- At TEA's request, P-TECH campuses must submit a data report of enrollment guidelines that follow the enrollment requirements outlined in the statutory requirements of this grant. Enrollment Guidelines should clearly document enrollment policies and practices to include admissions policies of performance-blind, open access systems that encourage and consider applications from all students, or a weighted lottery that factors 10 students who are at-risk as defined by the PEIMS (TEC §29.081) or who are part of the targeted subpopulations for P-TECH.
- At TEA's request, P-TECH campuses must submit a recruitment plan that includes marketing materials (in English/Spanish) and timelines.
- At TEA's request, P-TECH campuses must submit a data report of stakeholder input methods used to obtain input about the implementation of the program from students, parents, community, postsecondary partners, with regular activities to educate students, parents, counselors, community, district staff, and school board members.
- At TEA's request, P-TECH campuses must submit an academic year signed and dated memorandum of understanding (MOU) and course articulation agreement with one or more college partners that fulfills the statutory requirements of this grant. The agreement must address curriculum alignment, instructional material, instructional calendar, courses of study that lead to an associate degree or up to 60 hours of college credit toward a baccalaureate degree, student enrollment and attendance, grading periods and policies, administration of statewide assessments, and data-sharing policies and procedures.
- At TEA's request, P-TECH campuses must submit a plan of wrap-around strategies and services to provide academic, behavioral, and mental health supports for student success to include a plan for academic mentoring of faculty and student supports for intervention and acceleration, counseling, guidance, and student advisory services for academic, and mental health supports, and behavioral and mental health supports such as parent outreach, connections to social services when needed, and peer mentoring.
- The applicant agrees to complete and submit the required CCRSM planning application prior to the beginning of the next school year.

1. Does the school system agree to meet the Eligibility Criteria and Initiative Assurances listed above?

- Yes
- No

Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) (cont.)

Campus Selection for the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Grant

*Note: Current P-TECH planning, provisional, or designated campuses, recipients of previous P-TECH Planning and Implementation Grants or LASO P-TECH Grants, and any campus with CCRSM Needs Improvement status are not eligible to apply. School systems are **not eligible** to apply for the same content area awarded in previous grant cycles.*

1. Does your school system currently operate any Early College High School(s) (ECHS) or Pathways in Technology Early College High School(s) (P-TECH)?

- Yes
- No

1a. Please select the Colleges and Career Readiness School Model (CCRSM) campuses that are operating in your school system?

CASTLEBERRY H S-(220917001)

2. How many **new campuses** within your school system would be considered for this grant?

(Min: 1, Max: 3 but not to exceed the number of available campuses)

Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Grant

Please select the first campus to be considered for this grant:

CASTLEBERRY H S-(220917001)

Reminder: Do not submit unsolicited attachments. Unsolicited attachments will not be reviewed.

1. In 300 words or less, detail how your campus arrived at the decision to apply for this grant. Include at least one key motivation, one challenge, and one opportunity explored during discussions with stakeholders such as school board members, faculty/staff, and parents/students that is specific to your community. Highlight any data or research that influenced the decision.

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTECH.Question1.pdf](#)

31KB

application/pdf

2. P-TECH campuses must enter into an articulation agreement with an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.25. Name the partnering IHE that has agreed to meet the requirements of an P-TECH partnership.

Tarrant County College

3. Upload the Letter of support (not MOU) from an Institution of Higher Education for the future P-TECH campus in the box below. Please encourage the IHE to specifically address your future P-TECH campus partnership and plans.

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[Castleberry ISD- P-TECH- TCC Letter of Support.pdf](#)

82KB

application/pdf

4. Name the regional industry or business partner and describe how the proposed program will meet the requirements for the partnership with the industry/business partner in 300 words or less. **Please refer to the [P-TECH Blueprint](#) (6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4) when answering this question.**

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTECH.Question4.pdf](#)

32KB

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5. Name the program of study that the school is planning to offer.

Health Care Therapeutics

6. Name the industry-based certification, certificate, or associate degree that the P-TECH intends to offer.

Level I Patient Care Technician and IBC in Patient Care Technician

7. Upload the course of study/crosswalk that the school is planning to offer. **Please refer to the [P-TECH Blueprint \(2.4, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5\)](#) when answering this question.**

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTech.Question7.pdf](#)

143KB

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8. In 300 words or less, describe how the postsecondary credentials earned meet the local economic needs in the P-TECH academic plan. **Please refer to the [P-TECH Blueprint \(4.1 and 4.2\)](#) when answering this question.**

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTECH.Question8.pdf](#)

45KB

application/pdf

9. In 300 words or less, describe how the campus and school system intend to work with and secure the partnership with an IHE and align the needs of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that addresses topics such as but not limited to: funding, instructional materials, transportation costs, joint professional development, data sharing, and access to student data. **Please refer to the [P-TECH Blueprint \(1.9, 2.3, 2.8, 2.10 and 2.14\)](#) when answering this question.**

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTECH.Question9.pdf](#)

36KB

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10. In 300 words or less, please outline at least three key strategies for the future recruitment and enrollment process that meet the P-TECH open enrollment requirements for your school system and student population. **Please refer to the [P-TECH Blueprint \(3.1, 3.3 and 3.4\)](#) when answering this question.**

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTECH.Question10.pdf](#)

38KB

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11. After completing a successful second year of serving as a LASO 4.0 P-TECH campus, the campus leader and school counselor are promoted to other positions outside of your school system, and the school system P-TECH program budget is reduced. In 300 words or less, please describe the sustainability measures implemented at your campus beforehand to address and mitigate the challenges of leadership changes, staff turnover, and potential future funding fluctuations.

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTECH.Question11\(1\).pdf](#)

34KB

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12. Provide examples of how the future campus plans to offer a system of academic supports to all students. List at least three activities and three brief descriptions that are specific to your campus and future student population. **Please refer to the [P-TECH Blueprint \(4.7, 5.3 and 5.4\)](#) when answering this question.**

Note: Upload a PDF file using the following naming convention - [School System or Campus Name].[Initiative Acronym].[Document

Name].pdf

[CastleberryISD.PTECH.Question12.pdf](#)

34KB

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Closing

Signature

Official submission of this application requires the Superintendent's signature. The Application cannot be considered submitted without the formal signature from the Superintendent.

If the Superintendent is unable to sign because they are on leave or in role transition, please email at LASO@tea.texas.gov.

If you are the Superintendent, click **Yes** and proceed to submitting the application.

If you are not the Superintendent, pause on submitting this application and email LASO@tea.texas.gov to identify the school system's grantee official who can submit the application in the Superintendent's absence. Once the name of the grantee official has been identified, return back to this page, select **No**, then proceed to submitting the application.

Are you the Superintendent?

- Yes
 No

Please provide the following:

Superintendent Name :	<input type="text" value="Rence SmithFaulkner"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="smithr@castleberryisd.net"/>

Review & Sign

The LASO Cycle 4 Grant has closed.

**The closing date was December 3, 2025 at 05:00 PM.
This application can no longer be submitted.**

Please close your browser window.

Review & Sign

Before you sign and submit, click the **Review** button to review the completed application, revise as needed, and then sign to submit your final application.

You may only review one time. If you need to review the application again or make any additional revisions, please complete the Request for a Retake link- located on our LASO 4 webpage.

- Review
 Sign and Submit

Signature

Confirmation of Application

I have reviewed and acknowledge that the LASO 4 application I am submitting today is for the following Initiatives:

- Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)
- LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support (LIFT SI PLC)
- AP Computer Science Principles (APCSP)
- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program
- Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant
- Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP)
- Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)

Note: Only last submitted application will be accepted as the Final LASO 4 application.

Signed On: December 2, 2025 at 12:44 PM



clear