

# 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](mailto: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 01: Edinburg"/>
School System:	<input type="text" value="EDCOUCH-ELSA ISD-(108903)"/>

### 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="Maricela Olivarez"/>
School System Employee Title:	<input type="text" value="Assistant Superintendent"/>
School System Employee Email:	<input type="text" value="maolivarez@eeisd.org"/>

### Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	<input type="text" value="Dr Sandy Garza Ochoa"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="sagarza@eeisd.org"/>

### 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: 90%;" type="text" value="Maricela Olivarez"/>
Email:	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="maolivarez@ceisd.org"/>
Phone:	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="9562626000"/>

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

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

## 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).*

CARLOS F TRUAN MIDDLE-(108903043)  
JOHN F KENNEDY FINE ARTS ACADEMY-(108903103)  
RUBEN C RODRIGUEZ STEM ACADEMY-(108903104)

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.**

CARLOS F TRUAN MIDDLE-(108903043): 2  
JOHN F KENNEDY FINE ARTS ACADEMY-(108903103): 2  
RUBEN C RODRIGUEZ STEM ACADEMY-(108903104): 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).*

CARLOS F TRUAN MIDDLE-(108903043)  
JOHN F KENNEDY FINE ARTS ACADEMY-(108903103)  
RUBEN C RODRIGUEZ STEM ACADEMY-(108903104)

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.**

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CARLOS F TRUAN MIDDLE-(108903043): 2  
JOHN F KENNEDY FINE ARTS ACADEMY-(108903103): 2  
RUBEN C RODRIGUEZ STEM ACADEMY-(108903104): 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:   
Email:   
Phone:

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

Name:   
Email:   
Phone:

Name:   
Email:   
Phone:

## 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.

If awarded

the grant funds would be utilized to support the development and sustainability for a Computer Science Pathway with the implementation of AP Computer Science Principles course. Funds would be utilized for supplies and materials to support AP Computer Science course implementation. Teachers would receive professional development on AP Computer Science. The funds would also be utilized to cover AP testing for students.

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)

2

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?

2

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

Name:	Mary Garza
Title:	Associate Principal
Email:	marygarza@ecisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

## 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:	Maricela Olivarez
Title:	Assistant Principal
Email:	maolivarez@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

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

Name:	Joe Garza
Title:	Assistant Superintendent
Email:	joeagarza@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

4. Who are the school system's currently established EPP partner(s) with an SBEC-approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route Educator Preparation Program (TTRPR)?

*Note: When Educator Preparation Programs are approved for the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Program (TTRPR), they attest in their application and through the amendment process their school system partnerships.*

University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley

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.*

ACT - Rio Grande Valley  
University of Texas - RGV

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

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Name:	Maricela Olivarez
Title:	Assistant Superintendent
Email:	maolivarez@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

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.*

6

## 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:	Maricela Olivarez
Title:	Assistant Superintendent
Email:	maolivarez@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

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

Name:	Joe Garza
Title:	Assistant Superintendent
Email:	joeagarza@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

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.*

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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)*

6

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

## PREP Mentorship Program Allotment

### Allotment Opportunity:

The Preparing and Retaining Educators through Partnership (PREP) Program Allotment aims to strengthen the quality of teacher recruitment, preparation, and mentorship, leading to increased educator effectiveness and retention. The PREP Program Allotment provides funding for various partnerships and school systems may apply for funding for the PREP Residency Preservice Program, Grow Your Own Program, and the Mentorship Program through this LASO IV Application. Through this allotment, school systems may also apply for Strategic Staffing funding to support the implementation and reach of the PREP Program Allotment. The 89th Texas Legislature established the PREP Program Allotment via House Bill 2, which was signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025.

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

- Yes
- No

## PREP Mentorship Program Allotment

### Initiative Description:

The Preparing and Retaining Educators Through Partnership (PREP) Mentorship Program provides school systems interested in implementing high-quality new teacher mentorship programs with funding to 1) provide, at minimum, a \$1,000 stipend to the mentor teacher (per beginning teacher), 2) train all required school system mentorship staff via the Texas Mentorship Training, and 3) provide release time for mentor teacher and beginning teacher mentoring activities. Any remaining funds may be used on strategic staffing training. The overarching purpose of this allotment is to increase the effectiveness and retention of beginning teachers across Texas.

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.

### Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Read and abide by TEC §21.907 (PREP Mentorship Program).
- Read and abide by TEC §48.157 (PREP Program Allotment).
- Read and abide by TAC sections related to the PREP Mentorship 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: The TEA anticipates sharing specific dates related to rulemaking in fall 2025.*

For more details regarding Texas Education Code TEC §21.907 (PREP Mentorship Program) and TEC §48.157 (PREP Program Allotment) see: [PREP MENTORSHIP LASO 4 Pop-Out Document](#).

- Appoint a representative to engage in all required PREP Allotment & PREP Mentorship Program communications.

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

- Yes  
 No

## PREP Mentorship Program Allotment (cont.)

### Initiative Specific Questions for the PREP Mentorship Program Allotment

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

Name:	Maricela Olivarez
Title:	Assistant Superintendent
Email:	maolivarez@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

2. Enter the contact information for the school system representative appointed as the secondary point of contact for all PREP Mentorship Program-related activities:

Name:	Joe Garza
Title:	Assistant Superintendent
Email:	joeagarza@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

3. Prior to submitting this application, school systems must commit to communicating and partnering with an approved Texas Mentorship Training (TMT) Provider. The list of approved TMT Providers can be found in the PREP Mentorship Program Guidelines. Please indicate the approved TMT Provider the school system has communicated with regarding training partnership for PREP Mentorship Program in SY26-27.

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4. Enter the school system's approved TMT Provider contact information:

Name:	Maricela Olivarez
Title:	Assistant Superintendent
Email:	maolivarez@eeisd.org
Phone:	9562626000

## Roles

- **Mentor Teacher:** A teacher who, to the extent practicable, teaches in the same school, subject, and/or grade level of the beginning teachers they mentor, completes a mentor teacher training program established by TEA, has at least three years of teaching experience, and demonstrates instructional and leadership skills under TEC §21.458 and §21.907.
- **School system and/or Campus Leader:** Any appropriate district and campus employees who work with the classroom teacher or supervise the classroom teacher under TEC, §21.458

## PREP Mentorship Training Requirements

### • Pathway 1 (Mentoring Educator) Training:

- This pathway is intended for mentoring educators, such as mentor teachers, who provide direct mentoring to beginning teachers.
- Pathway 1 training will occur in Summer 2026, Fall 2026, Winter 2026-27, and Spring 2027 for a total of 24-30 hours.

### • Pathway 2 (School system & Campus Leader) Design Sessions:

- This pathway is intended for school system and campus leaders who will be planning & implementing mentorship programs (*e.g., program managers, district mentoring staff, campus principals, etc.*).
- Pathway 2 design sessions will occur in Spring 2026, Summer 2026, Fall 2026, and Spring 2027 for a total of 15-16 hours.

\* **Note:** Per TEC §21.458, appropriate school system and campus employees who work with the beginning teachers or supervise beginning teachers are required to attend mentorship training. This requirement may be fulfilled by either Texas Mentorship Training Pathway 1 or Pathway 2; these individuals may attend both Pathways 1 and 2, if desired.

5. School systems must self-report the estimated number of mentor teachers and school system & campus leaders that would attend Pathway 1 training for Year 1 implementation (SY 2026-27). See 'Roles' definition above.

Estimated number of mentor teachers:

Estimated number of school system & campus leaders for Pathway 1:

6. School systems must self-report the estimated number of school system & campus leaders that would attend Pathway 2 training for Year 1 implementation (SY 2026-27). See 'Roles' definition above.

Estimated number of school system & campus leaders for Pathway 2:

7. School systems must self-report the estimated number of beginning teachers for Year 1 implementation (SY26-27). Beginning teachers (BTs) are defined as classroom teachers who have less than two years of teaching experience under TEC, §21.907. School systems will enter the total estimated number of beginning teachers below; however, school systems will receive funding for up to 40 beginning teachers.

Estimated total number of beginning teachers for SY26-27:

## Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)

### Initiative Description:

The Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) enables school systems and open-enrollment charter schools to design and launch high-quality virtual and hybrid programs or campuses, as defined under Texas Education Code (TEC) Chapter 30B. The goal of the program is to establish schools that are intentionally structured to achieve A or B accountability ratings and deliver rigorous, engaging instruction tailored to meet the diverse needs of students across Texas. Through VHPA, participating school systems receive funding and technical assistance to develop flexible, personalized learning models that support students requiring adaptable education pathways. The program also enables school systems to implement innovative staffing strategies, expand course offerings, and increase access to high-quality instruction statewide.

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 not participated in a previous VHPA cycle.

## Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Program leads of awarded applicants have at least 16 hours of release time built into their weekly schedules to plan and create the virtual or hybrid program or campus.
- Ensure that the program or designated campus leader possesses relevant experience or can exhibit the competencies necessary to lead a virtual or hybrid program or campus effectively.
- Design and manage strategic initiatives that improve instructional quality and student engagement, and they are committed to building their capacity to support high-quality virtual and hybrid models.
- As part of the program commitment for Year 1 of VHPA, submit a comprehensive launch plan for a full-time virtual or hybrid program or apply for authorization to operate a virtual or hybrid campus to operate in 2027-2028 school year.

*Note: If the school system does not meet participation expectations or disengage from VHPA, they may have their membership from the VHPA terminated and forfeit any access to remaining funding.*

## Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Establish a dedicated VHPA Team responsible for developing and implementing the full-time virtual or hybrid campus or program.
- Collaborate with a TEA-assigned technical assistance (TA) provider and participate in TA-supported activities such as cohort workshops, monthly coaching calls, step backs, planning sessions, or implementation deliverables.
- Ensure adaptability and dedication in program model design to align with research-based practices for high-quality virtual and hybrid models.
- By the end of Year 1 of VHPA support, launch a full-time virtual or hybrid program or apply for authorization to operate a full-time virtual or hybrid campus beginning the 2027-2028 school year.

*Note: For full-time virtual or hybrid campuses, Year 2 of VHPA TA support and funds are contingent upon the full-time virtual or hybrid campus receiving authorization.*

- Ensure that any partnership with a private or third-party vendor preserves the school system's ability to design, adapt, and implement the virtual or hybrid program to meet local needs.
- Disclose any vendor-imposed services, limitations that may affect program flexibility, instructional design, or operational decision-making.
- If selecting a private or third-party provider to operate the school, collaborate with the designated technical assistance partner to develop a comprehensive provider selection plan that includes:
  - Defined criteria for evaluating potential providers.
  - Detailed cost analysis and breakdown of services.
  - Consideration of the provider's historical performance (e.g., student academic outcomes).
- If selecting a private or third-party provider to operate the program or campus, formalize and monitor the partnership with a third-party provider by:
  - Submitting memoranda of understanding (MOU) or formal agreements outlining responsibilities of both the provider and the school system or charter.
  - Establishing a system for progress monitoring, including required reports on student engagement and academic progress.
  - Defining action items if the provider fails to meet success criteria for the campus or program.
- Complete all required deliverables and meeting milestones by the scheduled timeline specified by the VHPA, including:
  - Define a clear and compelling rationale for launching the virtual or hybrid program/campus, including the specific student population or campus it will serve.
  - Present evidence of community interest in a virtual or hybrid learning option, including data collected through surveys, focus groups, or other engagement methods.
  - Develop and implement comprehensive plans to achieve program objectives, including an academic plan that outlines curriculum, instructional methods, approaches for monitoring student progress, and support strategies for special populations and at-risk students.
  - Develop and iterate plans regarding staffing models, school culture, family engagement, and student support.
  - Update operations such as staffing, schedules, finances, technology, and cybersecurity to support virtual or hybrid models.
  - Provide a professional development plan for instructional staff that includes training specific to virtual and hybrid instruction, along with ongoing, job-embedded coaching to strengthen instructional quality and student engagement.
  - Present evidence of training and development for teachers and leaders to ensure high-quality virtual or hybrid instruction.
  - Use data to monitor student engagement and academic progress, ensuring alignment with grade-level standards and research-based instructional strategies specific to virtual and hybrid learning.
  - Engage in three improvement cycle sessions using data to inform ongoing development. school systems will share data that reflects program implementation and outcomes. This may include student engagement, progress toward grade-level mastery in virtual and hybrid courses (BOY, MOY, EOY), teacher instructional practices and growth in serving virtual and hybrid learners, and leader support for professional learning communities and job-embedded coaching.
  - Obtain formal approval from the school system's governing board to launch a virtual or hybrid program/campus and ensure this approval is secured prior to applying for authorization. For virtual/hybrid campuses, ensure this approval is secured prior to applying for authorization.
  - Submit a detailed plan or contract outlining the scope of services, responsibilities, and decision-making authority in any private or

third-party vendor partnership supporting the virtual or hybrid program/campus *(if applicable)*.

- Submit a comprehensive launch plan and either implement a virtual or hybrid program or apply for authorization to operate a virtual or hybrid campus that is expected to begin operating in the 2027-2028 school year.

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

- Yes
- No

## Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) (cont.)

### Initiative Specific Questions for the Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA) Grant

1. Enter the contact information for the primary point of contact.

Name:	<input type="text" value="Maricela Olivarez"/>
Role:	<input type="text" value="Assistant Principal"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="maolivarez@ceisd.org"/>
Phone:	<input type="text" value="9562626000"/>

2. What are the grade levels will the school system be serving?

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade
- 9th Grade
- 10th Grade
- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade

3. What type of delivery format is the school system planning on?

- Program
- Campus
- TBD

4. What type of program is the school system planning on opening?

- Virtual
- Hybrid
- TBD

5. How does the school system envision instructions to delivered in the program?

- Asynchronous only
- Synchronous only
- Both asynchronous and synchronous
- Undecided

6. Will the school system be in Year 1 of the school system wide adoption of HQIM in core subjects?

- Yes
- No

7. Current or anticipated student enrollment number in the virtual/hybrid program or campus?

200

8. Describe how the school system calculated the enrollment number above.

*(i.e. current number of students enrolled, number of interested students via family survey)*

Edcouch-Elsa ISD currently has 270 students enrolled in grades 6th-12th. The projected enrollment of 200 students for the virtual-hybrid school is based on a combination of demand estimates operational capacity and strategic planning. Surveys and pre-registration forms indicated strong interest from families in the community suggesting an expected participation of approximately 180–220 students. This number also aligns with the school’s staffing and infrastructure capabilities ensuring optimal student-to-teacher ratios sufficient support services and adequate technology resources to provide a high-quality learning experience. Additionally 200 students represents a manageable initial cohort that allows for effective program implementation while remaining financially sustainable with the potential for gradual growth in future years. Overall this estimate reflects a balanced approach between community interest instructional capacity and strategic program development.

9. Which best describes where the school system is in the virtual/hybrid program?

- Are in the planning phase and currently do not have a virtual or hybrid program, but intend to launch in SY26-27.
- Have a plan and will be ready to launch a virtual/hybrid program this school year (SY26-27) with some additional support.
- Are currently running a virtual and hybrid program and would like feedback and support to build on it to launch a more robust program in SY27-28.
- Are in the planning phase and currently do not have a virtual or hybrid program but intend to apply for authorization to operate a virtual or hybrid campus in the SY27-28.
- Have a plan and will be ready to launch a virtual/hybrid program this school year (SY26-27). With some additional support, we plan to apply for authorization to operate a virtual or hybrid campus in the SY27-28.
- Are currently running a virtual and hybrid program and would like feedback and support to build on it and establish a virtual or hybrid campus in SY27-28.
- Are exploring virtual and hybrid learning options within our school system but unsure about the program type and timeline to launch.

10. Describe how your virtual or hybrid program/campus aligns with the school system's broader strategic goals or improvement plans.

Edcouch-Elsa Independent School District is committed to advancing district goals that align with this initiative. While a traditional brick-and-mortar campus is the ideal learning environment for most students others require additional flexibility and support. For these students a virtual and/or hybrid program at an identified campus can provide personalized adaptable learning opportunities for students and families. This model also enables the district to expand access optimize staffing and reimagine program offerings. Through this program we aim to broaden course availability ensuring students can access advanced courses and personalized pathways including courses or Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) not currently offered in our district. The program will also provide operational flexibility to address staffing gaps

particularly in areas where certified personnel are unavailable to support IBCs or specialized course requirements. Additionally it will help accommodate students with health or life challenges including students with disabilities ensuring they maintain access to a consistent school setting. We also plan to customize the program to enhance credit recovery and expand work-based learning opportunities aligned with student goals including partnerships with companies that offer virtual work environments. Edcouch-Elsa ISD intends to open a hybrid/virtual school program serving students in grades 6–12 including students with disabilities and those thriving in alternative settings who need a personalized pathway. This campus will oversee the program and offer these flexible learning options to any student who requires such accommodations.

11. Describe what knowledge or experience the school system's leadership team brings to designing and supporting high-quality virtual or hybrid instruction.

The Edcouch-Elsa ISD leadership team brings extensive knowledge and experience to the design and support of high-quality virtual and hybrid instruction. District and campus leaders successfully guided the system through the instructional challenges presented during the COVID-19 pandemic when virtual and hybrid learning became essential for maintaining continuity of instruction. During this period administrators gained firsthand experience in implementing digital platforms monitoring student engagement in remote settings addressing technology access needs and supporting teachers in adapting curriculum and instructional practices for online delivery. As a result all campus administrators are now deeply familiar with virtual instructional models blended learning strategies and the supports required to ensure students thrive in non-traditional environments. They have developed strong competencies in coordinating online learning systems integrating instructional technology managing flexible scheduling and ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements for all students including those with disabilities and students requiring specialized instructional accommodations. The leadership team's experience also includes guiding staff through professional development focused on virtual pedagogy establishing communication structures with families in online settings and creating processes to monitor student progress and provide timely interventions. These skills directly inform the design of the district's new virtual/hybrid program ensuring it is grounded in proven practices and aligned with district goals for expanded access personalized learning pathways and operational flexibility. Drawing from the lessons learned during COVID-19 and the collective expertise of administrators across all campuses Edcouch-Elsa ISD is well-equipped to build and sustain a high-quality virtual and hybrid instructional model that meets the diverse needs of students in grades 6-12.

12. Describe what research, data, or stakeholder input informed the school system's decision to pursue a virtual or hybrid model.

Edcouch-Elsa ISD's decision to pursue a virtual/hybrid model is grounded in a combination of research-based best practices district data trends and direct input from key stakeholders including students families teachers and campus leaders. Research and Best Practices: A strong body of national and state-level research demonstrates that virtual and hybrid instructional models can expand access to personalized pathways advanced coursework and alternative learning environments. Studies from the U.S. Department of Education (Means et al. 2010) show that blended and online learning can produce outcomes equal to or better than traditional instruction when programs are well-designed and supported. Additionally research from the Aurora Institute (formerly iNACOL) highlights that hybrid models allow districts to offer specialized courses Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs)

and credit recovery opportunities that may not be available in traditional settings (Powell et al. 2015). The Texas Education Agency’s reports on the impact of remote instruction during COVID-19 further emphasize that flexible models can benefit students whose needs do not align with traditional schedules or environments. Collectively this research supports the district’s belief that a structured virtual/hybrid model can close course access gaps and strengthen long-term student outcomes. District Data: Internal district data showed a persistent need for flexible learning options following the COVID-19 pandemic. Enrollment patterns revealed that some students perform better academically and socially in virtual or blended environments—especially those experiencing health concerns  
 complex life circumstances  
 disabilities  
 or needing modified schedules. The district also identified gaps in course availability specifically in IBC-aligned courses aspecialized subjects where certified staff are limited. A virtual/hybrid model allows Edcouch-Elsa ISD to expand access to high-quality instruction beyond staffing constraints and offer a broader range of learning pathways. Stakeholder Input: Feedback from families  
 teachers  
 counselors  
 and administrators strongly influenced the district’s decision.  Parents indicated a desire for more adaptable learning options for students with medical or personal challenges.  Students expressed interest in advanced coursework not currently available  
 flexible scheduling  
 and virtual work-based learning opportunities.  Teachers and campus administrators reflecting on their experience during COVID-19 emphasized that many students thrive in hybrid environments and benefit from consistent school support even when learning remotely.  Special education teams noted that virtual/hybrid settings can be tailored to meet the needs of students with disabilities more effectively. Conclusion: Collectively these research findings  
 district data points  
 and stakeholder perspectives demonstrated a clear and ongoing need for a high-quality virtual/hybrid program. As a result Edcouch-Elsa ISD is moving forward with a model designed to expand access  
 personalize learning  
 support specialized coursework  
 and meet the diverse needs of students in grades 6–12. References (for inclusion):  Means  
 B.  
 Toyama  
 Y.  
 Murphy  
 R.  
 Bakia  
 M.  
 & Jones  
 K. (2010). Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practices in Online Learning. U.S. Department of Education.  Powell  
 A.  
 Watson  
 J.  
 Staley  
 P.  
 Patrick  
 S.  
 & Horn  
 M. (2015). Blended Learning: The Evolution of Online and Face-to-Face Education from 2008–2015. Aurora Institute (iNACOL).  Texas Education Agency (2021). Remote Instruction and Learning Outcomes Report.

13. Which best describes the school system’s key areas of need for the virtual/hybrid program?

*Note: Answers provided will not limit the type of support the school system will receive if accepted into the program. Instead, this information will be used to better understand the school system’s key area of need.*

- Aligned, effective vision and model that is responsive to family and student needs.
- Family engagement, communication, and/or recruitment plan.
- Staffing and/or teacher/staff recruitment plan.

- ✓ Plan for communicating clear administrator, teacher, student, and family roles within a virtual/hybrid model. *(and wherever needed, support for shifting mindsets)*
- ✓ Instructional framework for designing high-quality virtual and hybrid courses aligned to research-based practices.
- ✓ Student attendance and engagement plan.
- ✓ School Culture and student well-being plan.
- ✓ Plan for supporting special populations and at-risk students.
- ✓ Student onboarding sessions, including learning strategies and support for cultivating mindsets rooted in the science of learning, self-directed learning skills, how to use digital tools, and help-seeking during asynchronous and/or synchronous instruction.
- ✓ Teacher development *(PD and ongoing job-embedded coaching)* to deliver high-quality instruction and learning experiences in a virtual/hybrid model.
- ✓ High-Quality Instructional Materials. *(for core curriculum and adjusted for virtual/hybrid learning)*
- ✓ Data collection and progress monitoring systems.
- ✓ Technology Strategy and Data Privacy Framework. *(including hardware, connectivity, digital tools, and cybersecurity policies)*
- ✓ Master schedule that is appropriately set up for virtual or hybrid learning.

14. Describe which additional topics, areas of support, or identified gaps would be most helpful to strengthen the school system's virtual or hybrid model.

To further strengthen Edcouch-Elsa ISD's virtual/hybrid model additional support is needed in several key areas. First enhanced professional development focused on high-quality virtual pedagogy including strategies for engagement differentiation and progress monitoring would help ensure instructional excellence across all courses. Support in developing robust systems for tracking student performance attendance and intervention in virtual settings would also be valuable particularly to maintain consistency for students with disabilities or those needing intensive support. The district would benefit from guidance in expanding virtual work-based learning partnerships and establishing aligned career pathways that connect students to industry- recognized experiences. Additionally assistance in building sustainable staffing models including leveraging certified virtual instructors for hard-to-fill courses would help close existing gaps in course offerings. Finally support with family engagement strategies specific to online and hybrid learning such as communication tools onboarding processes and technology readiness would strengthen the overall effectiveness and accessibility of the program.

15. Describe which curriculum the school system is currently using, or planning to use for virtual learning for core courses.

Edcouch-Elsa ISD is currently implementing Bluebonnet Math for grades 6th-12th. Amplify is the curriculum that is currently implemented for ELAR for grades 6th-8th. Odell is being implemented for ELAR in grades 9th-12th. Lowman is being implemented for Social Studies in grades 6th-12th. SAVVAS is currently being implemented for Science in grades 6th-12th. Edcouch-Elsa ISD plans to utilize a high-quality TEKS-aligned digital curriculum to support virtual learning for core courses. The district will rely on a combination of its existing core instructional materials already in use across campuses and vetted online curriculum platforms that provide rigorous standards-based content specifically designed for virtual and hybrid environments. These digital resources will include interactive lessons embedded assessments and tools that allow teachers to monitor progress and provide timely interventions. Additionally the district intends to incorporate supplemental online programs to support differentiation credit recovery and acceleration ensuring that all students including those with disabilities or unique learning needs

can access grade-level content and personalized pathways. This blended approach will allow Edcouch-Elsa ISD to maintain instructional consistency while expanding flexibility in a virtual setting.

16. Which content is the school system considering when adopting new instructional materials or curriculum for virtual learning? (*choose all that apply*)

*Note: Curriculum adoption is not a requirement of the program, but rather an optional support; the response to this question will help us better understand the school system's needs.*

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### School System's Commitments to VHPA

As part of the VHPA, school systems will form a VHPA Team that regularly partners with VHPA technical assistance providers and meets as a central team to develop and improve the virtual/hybrid program using VHPA support.

To the best of your current understanding, provide the contact information of individuals who most likely will be on the school system's VHPA Team.

#### [VHPA Team Roles and Responsibilities](#)

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17. Enter contact information for the school system's Senior Project Sponsor for the virtual or hybrid program.

Name:	Jesus Ramos
Title:	Biliteracy and Bilingual Director
Email:	jramos@eeisd.org

18. Enter contact information for the school system's Project Lead for the virtual or hybrid program.

Name:	Monica Vela
Title:	Parental Involvement Director
Email:	mvela@eeisd.org

19. Is the school system partnering with a third-party vendor or partner to run the virtual or hybrid program?

- Yes  
 No

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Do you have authorization from the TEA to sign on behalf of the superintendent?

- Yes
- No

Please enter the following details of the school system's grantee official, who is signing and submitting this application on behalf of the Superintendent as agreed upon between the school system and the TEA via the email sent to the LASO@tea.texas.gov inbox.

*Note: Only a "Grantee Official", identified by the school system in the TEAL account, will be considered to sign on behalf for the school system.*

School System Grantee Official Name:	Maricela Olivarez
School System Grantee Official Title:	Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
School System Grantee Official Email:	maolivarez@ceisd.org

## 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
- PREP Mentorship Program
- Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)

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

Signed On: December 2, 2025 at 05:19 PM



