

# 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 07: Kilgore"/>
School System:	<input type="text" value="EXCELSIOR ISD-(210906)"/>

### 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="Johnny Lewis"/>
School System Employee Title:	<input type="text" value="Superintendent"/>
School System Employee Email:	<input type="text" value="jlewis1@excelsior.esc7.net"/>

### Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	<input type="text" value="Johnny Lewis"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="jlewis1@excelsior.esc7.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="Roni Waller"/>
Email:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="roni.waller@excelsior.esc7.net"/>
Phone:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="936-598-5866"/>

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

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Name:	Johnny Lewis
Email:	jlewis1@excelsior.esc7.net
Phone:	936-598-5866

Name:	Alanea Edwards
Email:	alanea.edwards@excelsior.esc7.net
Phone:	936-598-5866

## 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 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).*

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL-(210906101)

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.*

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL-(210906101): 2

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

### Initiative Specific Questions for the Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Math Activity

1. Select the 2025 Federally Identified and Title-I serving campus(es) that will be implementing the Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Math Activity.

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

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL-(210906101)

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.*

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL-(210906101): 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:	Roni Waller
Email:	roni.waller@excelsior.esc7.net
Phone:	936-598-5866

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

Name:	Alanea Edwards
Email:	alanea.edwards@excelsior.esc7.net
Phone:	936-598-5866

Name:	Shelia Cobb
Email:	shelia.cobb@excelsior.esc7.net
Phone:	936-598-5866

## School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG)

### Initiative Description:

This grant provides direct funds to school systems to support the implementation of State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) that are not part of the Bluebonnet Learning suite. The goal is to ensure that campuses in School Improvement have access to rigorous, TEKS-aligned instructional materials that support high-quality instruction.

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:

- Campuses the school system are submitting for consideration are federally identified and Title-I serving.
- Seeking support for implementing SBOE approved instructional materials that are not Bluebonnet Learning products.

### Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Secure approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.

- Implement a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved high-quality instructional material (HQIM) that is not part of the Bluebonnet Learning suite, in alignment with TEA guidance and the goals of the grant program OR implement curriculum and instruction improvements in grades 6–12 English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) and grades 9–12 Mathematics (excluding Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry).
- Contract with a single Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 4 State Approved Provider list.
- Submit Approved 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.
- Participate in required TEA-led activities, including a grant kick-off.

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

- Yes  
 No

## School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG) (cont.)

### Campus Selection for the School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support (SI CISG) Grant

Select the 2025 Federally Identified and Title-I serving campus(es) that will be implementing the School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG).

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

EXCELSIOR SCHOOL-(210906101)

## School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG) (cont.)

### Initiative Specific Questions for the School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support (SI CISG) Grant

1. Does the school system acknowledge that this grant will support curriculum and instruction initiatives that do not involve the implementation of Bluebonnet Learning products?

- Yes  
 No

2. Enter contact information for your school system’s primary point of contact for the SI CISG grant.

Name:	<input type="text" value="Roni Waller"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="roni.waller@excelsior.esc7.net"/>
Phone:	<input type="text" value="936-598-5866"/>

3. Enter contact information for your school system’s secondary points of contact for the SI CISG grant.

Name:	<input type="text" value="Shelia Cobb"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="shelia.cobb@excelsior.esc7.net"/>
Phone:	<input type="text" value="936-598-5866"/>

Name:	<input type="text" value="Johnny Lewis"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="jlewis1@excelsior.esc7.net"/>
Phone:	<input type="text" value="936-598-5866"/>

## 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

Please provide the following:

Superintendent Name :	<input type="text" value="Johnny Lewis"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="jlewis1@excelsior.esc7.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)
- School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG)

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

Signed On: November 24, 2025 at 10:13 AM



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