

Welcome

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

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

Introduction

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

To ensure an informed selection, please follow these steps:

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

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

Curriculum & Instruction Serving Grants

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

Education and Training

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

More Time

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

Innovative School Models - Launch Grants

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

Additional Resources and Considerations

Additional Resources

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

Key Considerations for Submission

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

Overview

General School System Information

Select the ESC region that serves the school system.

ESC Region:	<input type="text" value="ESC 11: Fort Worth"/>
School System:	<input type="text" value="JOSHUA ISD-(126905)"/>

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="Jo Lynn Augsburger"/>
School System Employee Title:	<input type="text" value="Chief Academic and Technology Officer"/>
School System Employee Email:	<input type="text" value="augsburgerj@joshuaisd.org"/>

Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	<input type="text" value="Corey Hickerson"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="hickersonc@joshuaisd.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)

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:	<input type="text" value="Jo Lynn Augsburger"/>
Title:	<input type="text" value="Chief Academic and Technology Officer"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="augsburgerj@joshuaisd.org"/>
Phone:	<input type="text" value="(817)202-2500"/>

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:	<input type="text" value="Debra Brakel"/>
Title:	<input type="text" value="Executive Director of Human Resources"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="brakeld@joshuaisd.org"/>
Phone:	<input type="text" value="(817)202-2500"/>

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.

ESC 11: Fort Worth

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

Name:	Lindsey Rudnick
Title:	Mentor Training Partner
Email:	lrudnick@esc11.net
Phone:	8177407527

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:	8
Estimated number of school system & campus leaders for Pathway 1:	2

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:	4
---	---

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:

20

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant

Initiative Description:

School Actions are whole-school strategies districts use to increase access to high-quality schools, meet community needs, and address chronic underperformance. By providing technical assistance and grant funds to support school actions for individual campuses, TEA also supports school districts to take strategic actions that both improve schools and provide communities, parents, and families with the schools and programs they want, need, and deserve.

All School Action Fund (SAF) grantees must plan and implement an ESF-aligned, evidence-based model that includes development of a strategic schedule that maximizes instructional staff and time; assignment and empowerment of a campus leader with a track record of success to plan and implement the school action and model; and implementation of high quality instructional materials (HQIM, as defined later in these Program Guidelines) and research-based instructional strategies (RBIS).

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:

- Relevant campuses meet grant specific eligibility requirements of the 2026-2027 School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation Grant (SAF) to apply. See Eligibility List [here](#).

Note: Eligible applicants are school systems that apply on behalf of campuses that are Title I-serving school-wide and Comprehensive Support-identified, Targeted Support-identified, or Additional Targeted Support-identified, based on SY 2024-25 ratings. For new schools, there must be clear Title I, Part A eligibility and intent to obtain Title I-serving status for SY 2027-28 and beyond.

To be eligible, a campus may not have received any School Action Fund (SAF) grants, including TCLAS Decision 10 and any LASO SAF grants, since 2019-2020 (Planning, Continuation, or Implementation).

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

Note: The Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer and/or Chief Innovation/Transformation Officer, School Action Fund Project Manager (who has Cabinet-level access and decision-making authority), Chief Financial Officer, and any Superintendent designee understand that the School System (Applicant) assure that they know the following commitments.

- Aware that if awarded a Restart Action School System-Run ACE model Planning grant, and the campus is eligible for Resource campus designation, the grantee will be required to meet all Resource designation expectations by the end of the 2nd (second) year of implementation. More information about Resource Campus designation can be found [here](#).
- Regularly submit their expenditures (monthly preferred, quarterly at minimum) to remain on-track for grant expenditures.
- If a specific campus has not yet been identified, SAF grantee School Systems use a data-informed evaluation process and criteria (both quantitative and qualitative), and an appropriate timeline for identifying the campus(es) for school action(s), **by Gate 0 of the first year of the awarded grant.**
- Required to select a school system level (Central Office) staff member who is both qualified and experienced in project and program management to manage the planning and implementation of the grant.
- School Action Fund Project Manager must attend regular meetings, at least monthly, with the TEA SAF program staff.
- The school system level (central office) Business/Finance Office staff member responsible for overseeing SAF grant expenditures and drawdown processes must attend at least two meetings per semester with the school system's School Action Fund Project Manager and TEA SAF program staff.
- Fully implement high-quality instructional materials (HQIM, as described in the SY 2026-27 School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation grant's Program Guidelines) on the awarded campus(es) by **Year 1 (one)** of Continuation/Implementation, in both Mathematics and Reading Language Arts classes/courses.
- Implement strategic scheduling programs that require operational and staffing shifts to optimize time and accelerate instruction at the SAF campus(es) by Year 1 (one) of Continuation/Implementation as defined by the TEA, unless otherwise approved or stated by the TEA.

Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- The SAF grantee must fully implement the selected school action and model, identifying flexible and autonomous practices, as well as campus-specific goals and metrics aligned with school system policies. These must be documented in a Performance Agreement (for school system-run actions) or a Partnership Performance Contract (for partner-managed actions), signed by the campus leader and the school system superintendent and/or Board of Trustees by **May 31, 2027**.
- The SAF grantee school system's Board of Trustees must complete TEA-approved board training by Gate 3 of Year 1 of the awarded grant.

- Any campus that is closing, or potentially being repurposed, as part of a SY 2026-27 School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation grant, **must** follow TAC rules regarding CDCN requirements (County District Campus Number), and Campus Repurposing and Closure, including TAC 97.1066. (More information can be found [here](#).)
- Guarantee that school leaders of awarded campuses have at least 20 hours of release time built into their weekly schedules to plan the school action(s) and model(s).
- Select a TEA-codified school model and assign and empower a campus leader who has a track record of success to lead the planning and implementation of the school action and model.

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

- Yes
- No

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant (cont.)

Requirements for School Action Fund Applicants/Grantees of "Partner-Managed" Actions

1. Is the school system applying for any Partner-Managed Actions?

- Yes
- No

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant (cont.)

Requirements for School Action Fund Applicants/Grantees of "Create New School" actions

1. Is the school system applying for any "Create New School" actions?

- Yes
- No

2. Does the school system agree to all the requirements listed below?

- Applicants selecting "Create New School" must select and designate a campus leader no later than **June 5, 2026**, and commit to that campus leader's full participation in the New School Design Fellowship program beginning Summer 2026.
- Applicants must follow TAC rules regarding CDCN requirements (County District Campus Number), including TAC 97.1066
NOTE: Campus "phase-out" is not supported by the 2026-2027 School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation grant.
- Applicants selecting "Create New School" school actions must include the new campus in its Title I ESSA plan in time for SY2027-2028.
- Applicants assure enrollment at a "New School" will prioritize students previously attending, or zoned to, a Title I-serving and Comprehensive Support-identified, Targeted Support-identified, or Additional Targeted Support-identified school (2024-2025 ratings).

- Yes
- No

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant (cont.)

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation Grant Initiative-Specific Questions

- Only **one** Action, **one** Governance Structure, and **one** Model may be selected for each eligible campus.
- School systems are limited to a maximum of 6 (six) awards across all actions; and 4 (four) awards per action.
- For descriptions of each Action, click [here](#) for details.
- School system with a Board of Trustees-approved SY2026-27 Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Calendar with at least 200 days must attach:
 - Board of Trustees-approved SY2026-27 Additional Days School Year (ADSY) Calendar with at least 200 days
 - School system Board of Trustees Resolution approving the SY2026-27 ADSY Calendar

1. On behalf of how many campus(es) is the school system applying for:
Restart Actions? (0 to 4)

2. On behalf of how many campus(es) is the school system applying for:
Create New School Actions? (0 to 4)

3. On behalf of how many campus(es) is the school system applying for:
Reassign Actions? (0 to 4)

Caution: *The selected campus cannot have received its fourth consecutive year of an unacceptable rating (F or equivalent).*

4. Does the school system understand that Redesign Actions are no longer available through the School Action Fund?

Note: *If a school system is interested in redesigning a campus, please consider the **Additional Days School Year Full Year Redesign Grant (ADSY FYR)** available in LASO 4.*

- Yes
 No

5. Does the school system have a Board of Trustee approved ADSY calendar with a minimum of 175 days and at least 25 additional/separate instructional / enrichment days?

- Yes
 No

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant (cont.)

Create New School Actions

In **Create New School Actions**, a new school with a new CDCN, new campus leader, and an **Advanced STEM** model (*see [here](#) for details*) is designed and started in a new facility, an unoccupied existing facility, or co-located with another district program, school, or department in an existing facility. School systems will implement all aspects of the school model in **Year 1** of Implementation.

Select First Campus

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant (cont.)

Create New School Action for

1. Will the new school be School System-Run or Partner-Managed?

- School System-Run (Advanced STEM)
 Partner-Managed (Innovation)

2. Is the school system applying for a Planning grant or Implementation grant for the new school?

- Planning
 Implementation

3. Which grade levels will be served by the new school if new school is opening in during SY2026–27, or if opening in SY2027-28?

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant (cont.)

Create New School Actions

In **Create New School Actions**, a new school with a new CDCN, new campus leader, and an **Advanced STEM** model (*see [here](#) for details*) is designed and started in a new facility, an unoccupied existing facility, or co-located with another district program, school, or department in an existing facility. School systems will implement all aspects of the school model in **Year 1** of Implementation.

Select Second Campus

H D STAPLES EL-(126905101)

School Action Fund-Planning and Implementation (SAF) Grant (cont.)

Create New School Action for

1. Will the new school be School System-Run or Partner-Managed?

- School System-Run (Advanced STEM)
- Partner-Managed (Innovation)

2. Is the school system applying for a Planning grant or Implementation grant for the new school?

- Planning
- Implementation

3. Which grade levels will be served by the new school if new school is opening in during SY2026–27, or if opening in SY2027-28?

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade

Closing

Signature

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

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

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

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

Are you the Superintendent?

- Yes
- No

Please provide the following:

Superintendent Name :	<input type="text" value="Corey Hickerson"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="hickersonc@joshuaisd.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:

- PREP Mentorship Program
- School Action Fund (SAF)

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

Signed On: November 21, 2025 at 11:45 AM



clear