

# 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:	ESC 13: Austin
School System:	MCDADE ISD-(011905)

### 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:	Heather Stidham
School System Employee Title:	Superintendent
School System Employee Email:	heather.stidham@mcdadeisd.net

### Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	Heather Stidham
Superintendent Email:	heather.stidham@mcdadeisd.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)

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

### Initiative Description:

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

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

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

This structured approach builds school system capacity in program design, strategic planning, and change management. It ensures that

additional instructional days are effectively implemented and aligned with school system priorities to maximize academic impact. School systems participating in the Grade 6- 8 Expansion opportunity pilot will follow a slightly shorter timeline, with grant support lasting for two years. School systems will be able to select between two ADSY models, Full Year and Summer, to receive planning and implementation support aligned with research-based best practices.

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

### Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

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

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

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

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

### Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Assign a qualified and experienced project manager with district-level decision-making authority who can align campus-based actions with district goals, and who will:
  - Attend all Learning Community professional development workshops.
  - Participate in calls with the designated approved provider.
  - Lead the District’s ADSY PEP steering committee.
  - Ensure timely and high-quality completion of the LEA’s ADSY PEP strategic plan and deliverables.
- Form a cross-departmental Steering Committee that meets at least monthly and includes representatives from both the Finance and Curriculum & Instruction teams to guide strategic planning.
- Attend and actively participate in all required grant orientation meetings, Professional Development sessions, Technical Assistance (TA) meetings, and maintain open, responsive communication with the assigned TA provider throughout the grant period.
- Complete the comprehensive ADSY PEP Strategic Plan using the provided planning resources and templates, and submit it by the designated deadlines.
- Understand that continuation in the ADSY PEP grant is contingent upon demonstrated effort to implement feedback, adherence to all grant requirements, and evidence of yearly progress.
- Failure to secure board approval of an ADSY-eligible calendar (defined as a 175-day base instructional calendar with 75,600 operational minutes) for the 2026–2027 school year at participating campuses will result in ineligibility to continue in ADSY PEP.
- Maintain the annual ADSY-eligible calendar approval process at participating campuses for the full duration of the grant, and acknowledge that failure to secure board approval in future years during the ADSY PEP grant cycle will result in ineligibility for continued funding, if available.

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

- Yes
- No

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

### ADSY Calendar Requirement:

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

## ADSY Pathway:

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

- Yes  
 No

2. Which ADSY Cohort will the school system be applying to:

- ADSY Summer  
 ADSY Full Year

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

## New PK-5 Campus Participation

1. Select up to three ADSY-eligible campuses serving grades **PK-5** that the school system is applying for:

MCDADDE EL-(011905101)

2. Do **all of the selected campuses** above currently operate on a 175-day instructional day calendar (not including staff development waivers) for the 2025-2026 school year?

- Yes  
 No

2a. How many instructional days (not including staff development waivers) does the calendar have?

163

2b. Upload the calendar(s) in a single PDF (or all calendars if campuses are operating with different instructional day counts)

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

[Approved\\_25-26\\_District\\_Calendar.pdf](#)

349KB

application/pdf

3. Is the school system currently implementing an IMRA-approved, full-subject Tier 1 HQIM for Math at the campuses anticipated to participate in the ADSY grant?

- Yes  
 No

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

Bluebonnet Math

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5. Is the school system currently implementing an IMRA-approved, full-subject Tier 1 HQIM for RLA at the campuses anticipated to participate in the ADSY grant?

- Yes  
 No

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

Benchmark Advance

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

### Initiative Specific Requirements for the ADSY Summer Cohort

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

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

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

- Yes  
 No

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

- Yes  
 No

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

- Yes  
 No

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

- Yes  
 No

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

- Yes  
 No

## Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY

## PEP): Full Year Redesign and Summer Learning Cohorts (cont.)

### Initiative Specific Questions for both Cohorts

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

- Yes
- No

1a. Enter the name(s) of the school system's EPP Partnerships. (*comma separated*)

Teach Worthy

1b. Should the occasion arise, would the school system be interested in exploring a grant-supported opportunity that overlaps the ADSY model with the school system's EPP partnership (e.g., Residency, ACP, etc.)?

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

2a. Will the school system submit a letter of intent this Fall 2025 to pursue the Resource Campus Designation Process?

- Yes
- No

## PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment

### Allotment Opportunity:

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

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

- Yes
- No

## PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment

### Initiative Description:

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

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

## Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

## Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes  
 No

## PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment (cont.)

### Initiative Specific Questions for the PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment

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

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

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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:	Heather Stidham
Title:	Superintendent
Email:	heather.stidham@mcdadeisd.net
Phone:	5122732522

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

Name:	Whitney Stephens
Title:	Business Office Manager
Email:	whitney.stephens@mcdadeisd.net
Phone:	5122732522

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.*

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

Name:	McDade ISD
Title:	Superintendent
Email:	heather.stidham@mcdadeisd.net
Phone:	5122732522

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.*

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## 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:	<input type="text" value="Heather Stidham"/>
Title:	<input type="text" value="Superintendent"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="heather.stidham@mcdadeisd.net"/>
Phone:	<input type="text" value="5122732522"/>

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

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Name:	Gina Sanders
Title:	Curriculum Director and Testing Coordinator
Email:	gina.sanders@mcdadeisd.net
Phone:	5122732522

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

- High school students in completing career and technical education courses that help prepare the students to become classroom teachers.
  - School system employees who do not hold a teaching certificate in completing a bachelor’s degree to enable the person to enroll in an educator preparation program and become a certified teacher while employed by the school system.
- Note: Funding will be determined by each participating employee (TEC §48.157(b)(4)) and can be used to pay tuition and fees for high school students and employees participating in the program.*

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

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

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

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

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5. The TEA may provide in-kind technical support for PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program planning and implementation. If these supports were made available, would the school system be interested in joining a webinar to learn more about them?

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

- Yes
- No

## Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant

### Initiative Description:

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

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

### Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

### Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- **General Initiative Assurances**
  - Appoint a School System Strategic Staffing Lead who will serve at least 20% of their time and effort to oversee the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant and as the point of contact for the ESC technical assistance provider? Note: School System Strategic Staffing Lead, in conjunction with the ESC, will coordinate with other school system staff on the design and implementation teams to schedule grant activities and complete program deliverables.

- Develop clear companion guides, which include parameters for the selected strategic staffing model and communication plans, and share them with all stakeholders involved with resident placement in the school system and educator preparation programs (EPPs).
- Share data, such as historic teacher vacancies or student characteristic data, with the ESC technical assistance provider to inform design and implementation year decisions.
- Submit data to TEA on grant implementation and outcomes including, but not limited to the following:
  - Number of teacher residents participating in the year-long paid teacher residency.
  - School placement of residents during their residency year.
  - Selected strategic staffing models.
  - Resident and host teacher compensation.
  - Characteristics of teacher residents participating in the program.
  - Number and type of teacher certifications awarded to teacher residents.

• **Sustainable Funding for Residencies**

- Design and implement a strategic staffing model plan that will ensure that the teacher residency model will be sustainably funded by the school system by school year (SY) 2028-29.

*Note: the plan must include sustainable funding for teacher residents and host teacher stipends/salaries.*

• **School System and EPP Partnerships**

- Establish a partnership with at least one EPP that has been approved by the SBEC to offer the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route (TTRPR).
- Sign a letter of commitment or a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the ESC technical assistance provider. The EPP(s) must also confirm their commitment to the strategic staffing design and implementation process with the applicant.
- Set shared goals for school system paid resident placements in mutually beneficial staffing model positions.
- Hold structured governance meetings at least quarterly to analyze teacher resident data and develop plans for teacher residency continuous improvement during the SY 2027-28 residency implementation year.
- Work collaboratively with your EPP partner(s) to design a strategic staffing model and corresponding stipend amounts.
- Adhere to all educator preparation program requirements for residency in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 228.
- Provide preferential hiring, to the greatest extent possible, to teacher residents who have successfully completed the teacher residency program and received enhanced standard certification.

• **Technical Assistance for Design and Implementation**

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

**Initiative Requirements:**

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

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

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

Name:	Heather Stidham
Title:	Superintendent

Email:	heather.stidham@mcdadeisd.net
Phone:	5122732522

1a. Top three responsibilities in their role:

Finance, communication, long range planning

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

weekly

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

The superintendent will prioritize the support system to grow our own professional work force by strategically planning with administration and the board of trustees to ensure budgetary practices for the sustainability of the program. McDade is a small 2A school in a high growth area in central Texas. Future sustainability should not be an issue.

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

The superintendent will continue maintain the knowledge and skill set to continue to move the program forward in any and all circumstances.

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

Name:	Gina Sanders
Title:	Curriculum Director and Testing Coordinator
Email:	gina.sanders@mcdadeisd.net
Phone:	5122732522

3. Who are the school system's currently established Texas Strategic Staffing SBEC-approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route Educator Preparation Program ([TTRPR](#)), EPP partner(s)?

*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.*

Austin Community College

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

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

Austin Community College

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

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

[laso-4-epp-verification-form \(1\) - ACC 1.pdf](#)

177KB

application/pdf

## 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 :

Heather Stidham

Superintendent Email:

heather.stidham@mcdadeisd.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

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# Signature

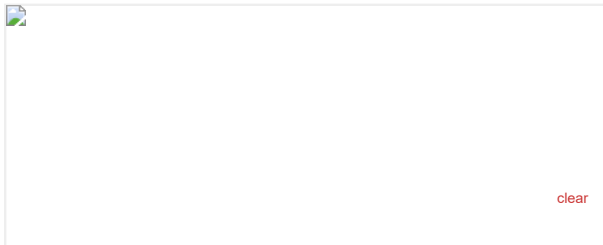
## Confirmation of Application

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

- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program
- Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant
- Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP)

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

Signed On:



clear