

# 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 11: Fort Worth"/>
School System:	<input type="text" value="PONDER ISD-(061906)"/>

### 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="Patricia Dawson"/>
School System Employee Title:	<input type="text" value="Chief Academic Officer"/>
School System Employee Email:	<input type="text" value="pdawson@ponderisd.net"/>

### Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	<input type="text" value="James Hill"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="jhill@ponderisd.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)

## 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).*

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## 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:	Patricia Dawson
Email:	pdawson@ponderisd.net
Phone:	9727433577

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

Name:	Tara Allred
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Email:	tallred@ponderisd.net
Phone:	6824290188

Name:	Heather Thornburg
Email:	hthornburg@ponderisd.net
Phone:	2142358072

## 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:	Patricia Dawson
Title:	Chief Academic Officer
Email:	pdawson@ponderisd.net
Phone:	9727433577

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

Name:	Tara Allred
Title:	Chief Academic Officer
Email:	tallred@ponderisd.net
Phone:	9404798200

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.*

University of North Texas

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

Name:	Ahveance Jones
Title:	Director of Clinical Experience
Email:	Ahveance.Jones@unt.edu
Phone:	9405654226

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.

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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.*

## 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:	Patricia Dawson
Title:	Chief Academic Officer
Email:	pdawson@ponderisd.net
Phone:	9727433577

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:	Tara Allred
Title:	Chief Academic Officer
Email:	tallred@ponderisd.net
Phone:	6824290188

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

Name:	Lindsey Rudnick
Title:	ESC Eleven Mentorship Fellow
Email:	lrudnick@esc11.net
Phone:	817-740-7527

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#### 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:	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Estimated number of school system & campus leaders for Pathway 1:	<input type="text" value="5"/>

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:	<input type="text" value="3"/>
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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:	<input type="text" value="15"/>
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## Closing

### Signature

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

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

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

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

Are you the Superintendent?

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

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

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

School System Grantee Official Name:	<input type="text" value="Patricia Dawson"/>
School System Grantee Official Title:	<input type="text" value="Chief Academic Officer"/>
School System Grantee Official Email:	<input type="text" value="pdawson@ponderisd.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:

- School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG)
- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- PREP Mentorship Program

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

Signed On: November 20, 2025 at 12:41 PM



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