

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 04: Houston"/>
School System:	<input type="text" value="SHELDON ISD-(101924)"/>

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="Tacarra Williams"/>
School System Employee Title:	<input type="text" value="Director of Federal Programs and Grants"/>
School System Employee Email:	<input type="text" value="tacarrawilliams@sheldonisd.com"/>

Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	<input type="text" value="Demetrius McCall"/>
Superintendent Email:	<input type="text" value="demetriusmccall@sheldonisd.com"/>

School System Calendar

For the 2026–27 school year, select the option that best describes your school system’s instructional calendar:

- 165 or more instructional days
- Fewer than 165 instructional days
- Fewer than 165 instructional days in 2026–27, but planning to transition to 165 or more days in a future year

LASO Cycle 4 Assurances

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Commit to all assurances associated with the initiatives they intend to apply for.
Failure to agree to these assurances may prevent the school system from completing the application or being considered for awards.

- Ensure the superintendent approves participation in all selected initiatives.

If assurances are not met or the school system disengages from the supports/initiatives provided, TEA may impose conditions on the award, including terminating participation or reducing awarded funds.

- Meet the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#).

The school system certifies its commitment to all assurances listed above?

- Yes
 No

Initiative Selection

Below is the list of initiatives available in LASO Cycle 4. Review the [program guidelines](#) and [one-pagers](#) with key information for each initiative. Then select the set of initiatives that best meet your school system’s local needs and priorities.

Curriculum & Instruction Grants

- Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)
- LIFT Add-On: School Improvement PLC Support (LIFT SI PLC)
- School Improvement Curriculum and Instruction Support Grant (SI CISG)
- Blended Learning Grant (BLG)
- Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP)

Education & Training Allotments and Grant

- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program
- PREP Mentorship Program
- Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant

More Time Grants

- Additional Days School Year Planning & Execution Program (ADSY PEP) Grant

Innovative School Models - Launch Grants

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

Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)

Initiative Description:

LIFT (Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas) is a three-year program designed to support Texas school systems in building the instructional and systems-level capacity needed to deliver high-quality learning experiences for all students. LIFT brings together the highest leverage components of Strong Foundations, Texas Instructional Leadership, and Texas Lesson Study, providing comprehensive support for school systems to adopt **high-quality instructional material (HQIM)** and implement **Bluebonnet Learning (BL)** over multiple years.

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

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Commit to selecting and implementing a [State Board of Education \(SBOE\)](#)-approved high-quality instructional material (HQIM) in the 2027–28 school year.

OR

- Commit to implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–27 school year.

Note: Participation in other grant programs does not disqualify applicants but may be considered during prioritization.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Commit to (with Board approval) implementing a Bluebonnet Learning (BL) product in the 2026–27 school year (if applying to the “Implementation Phase”) OR committing to selecting and implementing a State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved high-quality instructional material (HQIM) in the 2027–28 school year (if applying to the “Planning Phase”).
- Contract with an Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 4 State Approved Provider List for LIFT.
- Submit Approved Provider contracts and required funding summary reports to TEA.
- Secure approval from the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer (or equivalent leader) to participate in the program.
- Appoint a designated LIFT lead as the primary point of contact and identify at least two additional contacts.
Note: The primary point of contact should be the equivalent of a senior academic team member or principal manager.
- Participate in required TEA-led activities, including a grant kick-off and communities of practice.
- Engage relevant school system and campus leaders, including special programs leadership, as well as teachers, instructional coaches, and special population educators in upfront training, implementation support, and coaching.
- Participate in a needs assessment of current instructional practices and materials.
- Establish or refine systems for instructional leadership, schoolwide routines, and observation and feedback.
- Submit all required grant deliverables, including instructional framework artifacts, implementation plans, school system-level instructional materials transition plan, campus-level implementation action plans, classroom, campus, and school system-level observation data and student outcomes data and progress updates as requested by the Approved Provider or the TEA.
- Participate in TEA-administered surveys and/or focus groups, as requested.
- Use grant funds in alignment with the required allocation structure and ensuring all expenditures support the goals of the LIFT program.
- Permit Approved Providers access to campuses to provide in-person support.
- Ensure teachers have sufficient planning time and use the required protocols.
- Provide print materials for all participating teachers and students.
- Follow the year-long scope and sequence for the instructional materials.
- Meet the minimum number of instructional minutes for the instructional materials.
- Ensure that a number of instructional leaders, aligned with the school system size, will actively participate in monthly implementation support and coaching provided by the Approved Provider.
- Ensure that the school system cabinet regularly engages in data reflection/performance management routines.

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

- Yes
 No

Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) Grant

For each content area below, please indicate your district’s current intention regarding the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

You may select different options for each content area.

K–5 English or Spanish Language Arts and Reading (ELAR/SLAR)

1. For which activity are you seeking LIFT technical assistance support in K-5 ELAR or SLAR?

- Implement **Bluebonnet Learning K–5 ELAR** in 2026–27 and/or **Bluebonnet Learning K-5 SLAR** if approved by SBOE
 Select an **SBOE-approved HQIM** during the planning year in 2026-27 and implement that HQIM in 2027-28
 Neither of the above

K–5 Mathematics

2. For which activity are you seeking LIFT technical assistance support in K-5 Math?

- Implement **Bluebonnet Learning K–5 Math** in 2026–27 and/or **Bluebonnet Learning K-5 Math (Spanish)** if SBOE approved

- Select an **SBOE-approved HQIM** in 2026-27 during the planning year in 2026-27 and implement that HQIM in 2027-28
- Neither of the above

Secondary Mathematics

3. For which activity are you seeking LIFT technical assistance support in 6-8 and/or Algebra I Mathematics, or Geometry or Algebra II if approved by SBOE?

- Implement **Bluebonnet Learning Secondary Math** in 2026–27
- Select an **SBOE-approved HQIM** during the planning year in 2026-27 and implement that HQIM in 2027-28
- Neither of the above

Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) Grant

For each content area below, please indicate your school system’s current intention regarding the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

The LIFT grant provides monthly implementation support and coaching from a State-Approved Provider. By applying for this grant, your organization is committing to active participation in this support, specifically for instructional leaders – both at the campus and school system levels. Each participating campus must have one leader receiving coaching. Each of the participating campus and school system leaders must be directly involved in supporting teachers with the implementation of selected instructional materials. Additionally, the school system leader must be directly involved in supporting the campus leaders.

4. How many campus principals will the school system commit to receiving monthly implementation support and coaching visits from the Approved Provider?

Total number of principals to be coached :

5. How many school system-based instructional leaders (e.g. principal managers, executive director of instruction, associate superintendent) will the school system commit to receiving monthly implementation support and coaching visits from the Approved Provider?

Total number of leaders to be coached:

6. Does the school system commit to having, or working towards having, 165+ instructional days in the 2026-2027 academic year?

- Yes
- No

7. Has the school system implemented a CER OER product in previous academic years?

- Yes
- No

8. Enter the contact information for the school system’s primary point of contact for the LIFT grant.

Name:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="Tacarra Williams"/>
Email:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="tacarrawilliams@sheldonisd.com"/>
Phone:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="281.727.2065"/>

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

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

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)

15

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:	Dr Brenda Dearmon
Title:	Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Email:	brendadearmon@sheldonisd.com
Phone:	281.727.2075

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

Name:	Tacarra Williams
Title:	Director of Federal Programs and Grants
Email:	tacarrawilliams@sheldonisd.com
Phone:	281.727.2065

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.

Region 04 Education Service Center
Texas Woman's University
University of Houston - Victoria

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

Name:	Dr Christian Winn
Title:	Director
Email:	christian.winn@esc4.net
Phone:	713.744.8196

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.

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:	Dr Brenda Dearmon
Title:	Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Email:	brendadearmon@sheldonisd.com
Phone:	281.727.2075

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

Name:	Tacarra Williams
Title:	Director of Federal Programs and Grants
Email:	tacarrawilliams@sheldonisd.com
Phone:	281.727.2065

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)

40

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

Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)

Initiative Description:

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

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

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Have not participated in a previous VHPA cycle.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

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

Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

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

- Ensure that any partnership with a private or third-party vendor preserves the school system's ability to design, adapt, and implement the virtual or hybrid program to meet local needs.
- Disclose any vendor-imposed services, limitations that may affect program flexibility, instructional design, or operational decision-making.
- If selecting a private or third-party provider to operate the school, collaborate with the designated technical assistance partner to develop a comprehensive provider selection plan that includes:

- Defined criteria for evaluating potential providers.
- Detailed cost analysis and breakdown of services.
- Consideration of the provider’s historical performance (e.g., student academic outcomes).
- If selecting a private or third-party provider to operate the program or campus, formalize and monitor the partnership with a third-party provider by:
 - Submitting memoranda of understanding (MOU) or formal agreements outlining responsibilities of both the provider and the school system or charter.
 - Establishing a system for progress monitoring, including required reports on student engagement and academic progress.
 - Defining action items if the provider fails to meet success criteria for the campus or program.
- Complete all required deliverables and meeting milestones by the scheduled timeline specified by the VHPA, including:
 - Define a clear and compelling rationale for launching the virtual or hybrid program/campus, including the specific student population or campus it will serve.
 - Present evidence of community interest in a virtual or hybrid learning option, including data collected through surveys, focus groups, or other engagement methods.
 - Develop and implement comprehensive plans to achieve program objectives, including an academic plan that outlines curriculum, instructional methods, approaches for monitoring student progress, and support strategies for special populations and at-risk students.
 - Develop and iterate plans regarding staffing models, school culture, family engagement, and student support.
 - Update operations such as staffing, schedules, finances, technology, and cybersecurity to support virtual or hybrid models.
 - Provide a professional development plan for instructional staff that includes training specific to virtual and hybrid instruction, along with ongoing, job-embedded coaching to strengthen instructional quality and student engagement.
 - Present evidence of training and development for teachers and leaders to ensure high-quality virtual or hybrid instruction.
 - Use data to monitor student engagement and academic progress, ensuring alignment with grade-level standards and research-based instructional strategies specific to virtual and hybrid learning.
 - Engage in three improvement cycle sessions using data to inform ongoing development. school systems will share data that reflects program implementation and outcomes. This may include student engagement, progress toward grade-level mastery in virtual and hybrid courses (BOY, MOY, EOY), teacher instructional practices and growth in serving virtual and hybrid learners, and leader support for professional learning communities and job-embedded coaching.
 - Obtain formal approval from the school system’s governing board to launch a virtual or hybrid program/campus and ensure this approval is secured prior to applying for authorization. For virtual/hybrid campuses, ensure this approval is secured prior to applying for authorization.
 - Submit a detailed plan or contract outlining the scope of services, responsibilities, and decision-making authority in any private or third-party vendor partnership supporting the virtual or hybrid program/campus (*if applicable*).
 - Submit a comprehensive launch plan and either implement a virtual or hybrid program or apply for authorization to operate a virtual or hybrid campus that is expected to begin operating in the 2027-2028 school year.

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

- Yes
- No

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

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

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

Name:	Tacarra Williams
Role:	Director of Federal Programs and Grants
Email:	tacarrawilliams@sheldonisd.com
Phone:	281.727.2065

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

- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade

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

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

- Program
- Campus
- TBD

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

- Virtual
- Hybrid
- TBD

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

45

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

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

Sheldon ISD calculated the projected enrollment by reviewing quantitative and qualitative data from parents and students in grades 8–11. A districtwide family survey measured interest in a virtual option preferred course pathways and needed flexibility. Focus groups and feedback from counselors campus leaders and district administrators validated this interest and helped identify students whose academic needs and learning preferences align with a virtual model. Additionally the district analyzed historical enrollment and student success trends from KASE Academy focusing on learners who thrive in flexible self-directed environments. These data sets informed the decision to launch a sustainable pilot cohort of 45 students in Year 1.

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

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

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

The virtual program is in direct alignment with the Sheldon ISD mission and supports the execution of all five district Strategic Priorities by functioning as an innovative extension of the district's instructional model for students who require a nontraditional pathway to academic success. These priorities were developed collaboratively through the Texas Strategic Leadership initiative and the Texas District Effective Schools Framework. The virtual program also serves as a strategic mechanism for advancing the goals outlined in the district's strategic plan which guides the district improvement plan

all campus improvement plans

and leadership evaluations. The virtual program strengthens the district's Academic Excellence priority by expanding access to rigorous and relevant courses that address a wider range of student needs. It opens the door for students to take advanced classes that may be difficult to staff or schedule on a traditional campus

supports personalized learning through flexible options such as work-based learning

college enrollment

and workforce credential opportunities

and increases the likelihood of graduation and college career

and military readiness for at-risk learners. It also meets the needs of students who want to graduate early or those who must balance school with work or family responsibilities. Rather than serving only as a credit recovery option

this program positions the district to deliver a comprehensive virtual learning experience. It aligns with the district's alternative education redesign and reinforces the "Vision Becomes Legacy" framework by promoting innovation and excellence. Pursuing the LASO Virtual Hybrid Accelerator Grant advances Sheldon ISD's Operational Excellence goal by seeking to acquire funding to create a sustainable model that maximizes financial resources and student outcomes. The program broadens how learning is made available to every student ensuring that the district provides every resource

thereby maximizing student engagement and outcomes. The program creates a powerful opportunity for the district to expand its approach to Talent Management and make more effective use of the staff's talent. Currently focused primarily on credit recovery

experienced virtual educators will have the opportunity to support a broader range of student needs across different learning models increasing the district's overall capacity and staff engagement. Our One Sheldon priority focuses on fostering community pride through supportive and positive learning environments

and the virtual program strengthens this commitment by establishing an intentional small learning community for students who thrive outside traditional in-person settings. It offers a connected and supportive space where students can feel successful and develop a strong sense of belonging within a nontraditional model. The program also enhances Sheldon ISD's existing partnerships with 8 Million Stories and San Jacinto College

integrating their services into a more flexible and accessible learning ecosystem. Through 8 Million Stories

virtual students benefit from wraparound supports

mentoring

counseling

and re-engagement services that help address barriers to persistence and graduation. In addition

the collaboration with San Jacinto College expands early college

dual-credit

and workforce certification opportunities

enabling students to access college-level courses and industry-based credentials on flexible schedules. This combination of personalized intervention

academic acceleration

and career-readiness options ensures that Sheldon ISD continues to leverage strong community partnerships to provide meaningful pathways that meet the diverse needs of all learners.

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

District Administration: Karen Gallow
Deputy Superintendent of Sheldon ISD
brings extensive experience in instruction
curriculum development
and innovative program design that directly supports the creation of a strong virtual learning system. She has led district curriculum
instruction
and assessment
and has designed professional development for teachers
including online PD tailored for virtual instruction. Her work ensures virtual learning remains rigorous and aligned with district and TEA
expectations. As the former Executive Director of Advanced Academics
she built district systems for virtual delivery of Advanced Placement and dual credit courses and managed complex virtual testing
environments such as the Texas Success Initiative Assessment. Her leadership during the pandemic included developing the district's Remote
Learning system
hiring staff
structuring synchronous and asynchronous learning
and supporting families through virtual parent webinars. She has also played a key role in creating innovative programs like Sheldon Early
College High School and securing grants such as Perkins Reserve for the Texas Regional Pathways Network. Her ability to link virtual
instruction with college and career pathways helps position the program as a sustainable and strategic part of the district's long-term plan for
student success. Dr. Donald Stewart serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning in Sheldon ISD and brings extensive
experience in building and sustaining effective virtual learning systems. As a former high school principal
he launched an evening hybrid program for students who were ten or more credits behind
leading the campus to a consistent 96 percent graduation rate for two years. He also supported the rollout of a technology lending grant in a
rural community
gaining firsthand knowledge of access points
student technology needs
and the types of troubleshooting required when students face connectivity challenges. During the pandemic
he served as Deputy of Business and Finance. In that role
he developed a strong understanding of purchasing quality devices
managing contracts
and ensuring vendors met their commitments. His combined instructional and operational experience equips him to support and guide a high-
quality virtual learning program. Mrs. Tacarra Williams
Director of Federal Programs and Grants
brings a strong blend of instructional leadership and HQIM implementation experience. She supported teachers before
during
and after COVID and led the rollout of Amplify and Eureka Math (currently Bluebonnet) to strengthen Tier 1 instruction. Her background as a
principal and federal programs leader allows her to design professional development
coaching systems
and instructional routines that translate well into digital and blended settings while maintaining rigor and alignment with district and TEA
expectations. She also has deep expertise in grants and compliance
which supports financial sustainability
strategic alignment
and clear processes that help both teachers and students thrive in a virtual learning program. Janice Whiting
Coordinator of Compliance & Grants
brings a strong background in 9–12 science instruction
digital learning
and academic leadership. Her experience as a science department chair strengthened her ability to support teachers with instructional
alignment
digital learning tools and strategies
and the effective use of learning platforms that transfer well into virtual environments. As a high school science teacher
she developed a hybrid science class model before COVID
which allowed her students to transition smoothly into synchronous and asynchronous learning during the pandemic. She is skilled in pacing
scaffolding
and designing engaging learning experiences for virtual and blended settings. She has worked with multiple learning management systems and
a range of educational technology tools
including platforms for assessment

communication
student tracking
and digital curriculum integration. Her digital pedagogy reflects best practices for virtual teaching
emphasizing student engagement
collaboration
and productive online discussions. She also promotes digital literacy and responsible online citizenship. She also has some expertise in grants
and compliance
which supports strategic alignment and clear processes to help support a virtual learning program. Campus Administrator: Jumana Mills
campus principal of King Academic School of Excellence
is well prepared to lead virtual and hybrid learning programs because of her strong experience and skills. She has spent the past four years
leading in alternative and online learning environments
where she has guided a high-performing program that raises academic achievement and moves students forward at an accelerated pace. Her
leadership has resulted in stronger outcomes and a clear system for helping students succeed in flexible learning pathways. She is skilled in
coaching teachers through data-informed feedback and instructional support to strengthen classroom practice. Mrs. Mills has also served as a
high school counselor
enriching her leadership. She understands both the academic and emotional needs of students navigating nontraditional learning environments
and she builds strong relationships with families to ensure they are informed
engaged
and prepared to support learning at home. This family partnership is especially important in virtual and hybrid models
where consistent communication and shared support are key to student success. Instructional Staff: At-Risk Specialist - The specialist will
support students whose personal
academic
or social circumstances may impact their success in a virtual environment. This includes coordinating services with community agencies
providing counseling
managing and monitoring intervention plans such as RTI and 504 services for students. The At-Risk Specialist ensures that students in the
Virtual Academy have consistent access to the wraparound supports necessary to remain engaged
overcome barriers
and stay on a path toward graduation. Instructional Technology Specialist - The Sheldon ISD Instructional Technology team has experience
with one-to-one implementation of technology devices for both in-person and virtual learning. This includes tailoring hardware purchases that
meet the required specifications for applications
rostering students
creating a single sign-on portal
providing family assistance via a help desk call center
scheduling device maintenance and replacement
and inventorying devices loaned to students to take home. Counselor – The school counselor will support implementation of the virtual and
hybrid program by providing academic guidance
monitoring progress
and ensuring students have the support needed to succeed in a nontraditional setting. Key responsibilities include reviewing student records
for appropriate placement
developing individualized graduation plans
and advising on dual-credit and CCMR pathways. The counselor will conduct regular check-ins to address attendance
engagement
or social-emotional needs. Through consistent communication with families and close monitoring of student progress
the counselor helps ensure learners remain on track for graduation and fully engaged in the virtual model. Together
they bring expertise in instructional design
online pedagogy
and data-driven improvement.

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

Sheldon ISD's decision to pursue a virtual program model is driven by key stakeholder feedback
reflecting both a clear need and a strong interest from parents and students in grades 8-11. The parent survey results show high interest; 52%
were likely to consider virtual enrollment for their high school student. This potential interest supports the program's feasibility and necessity.
Families identified flexible scheduling
personalized learning
health and safety
and support for family or personal responsibilities as key reasons. A key planning data point shows that 68% of parents already have the

internet access and computer technology required for virtual learning. This establishes a favorable starting point for addressing the program's technology needs and allows the district to focus technology resources on closing the remaining access gap. Student feedback from grades 8-11 reinforces parents' demand

validating the intended target audience's interest. Nearly one third of surveyed students (31%) indicated they are highly likely or strongly interested in enrolling in a virtual program. This level of student demand aligns well with the projected enrollment capacity for the proposed virtual model. Students identified reasons for enrolling in a virtual program that closely mirror parents' priorities

while also noting personal circumstances. The most common reasons cited were the need for flexible scheduling and the ability to learn at a personalized pace. Family and personal responsibilities also played a significant role in student interest

along with academic focus and health or safety reasons

which appeared frequently in the survey responses. Seventy percent of the students surveyed reported having the necessary internet access and technology for virtual learning. This aligns with the parents' responses and provides a starting point for analyzing technology support. The stakeholder feedback shows a clear need for a high school model that is flexible

personalized

and supports students' individual situations. The strong interest from students and parents

combined with the district's expected enrollment capacity

gives solid justification for the size and direction of the proposed virtual program. The data supports why the district should pursue a virtual model and identifies its key areas of focus

such as flexibility and personalized learning. Together

this information guides Sheldon ISD's decision and ensures the virtual program is built to meet real community demand and the academic and personal needs of high school students.

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

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

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

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

Several targeted areas of support would significantly strengthen our virtual model. Building a stronger virtual attendance accountability system is a priority because accurate tracking is essential for student engagement

funding

and compliance. Guidance for creating an onboarding toolkit for virtual learners and families would also help set clear expectations

build digital confidence

and support a smooth start. Support is also needed to design sustainable staffing and technology plans that can grow with the program. Finally

improving data dashboards for progress monitoring remains an important gap. Better dashboards would help educators

students

and families track performance

spot learning needs sooner

and make timely adjustments to support student success.

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

Sheldon ISD plans to use a blended curriculum model for core virtual learning courses combining its existing vertically-aligned high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) with dedicated online platforms. The core curriculum of the virtual program will utilize the district's vertically aligned curriculum documents developed with training and auditing from ASCD while integrating the Bluebonnet math program which is currently implemented with fidelity at the high school level. The Bluebonnet materials will be adapted for online delivery. The district will also integrate online platforms specifically Edgenuity/Imagine to deliver and manage core courses. This approach ensures the virtual program maintains alignment with the district's existing high-quality research-based curriculum while utilizing the flexibility and personalized learning tools of established virtual platforms.

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

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

ELAR

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

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

Science

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

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

- 11th Grade
- 12th Grade

School System's Commitments to VHPA

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

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

[VHPA Team Roles and Responsibilities](#)

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

Name:	<input type="text" value="Dr Donald Stewart"/>
Title:	<input type="text" value="Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="donaldstewart@sheldonisd.com"/>

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

Name:	<input type="text" value="Jumana Mills"/>
Title:	<input type="text" value="KASE Academy Principal"/>
Email:	<input type="text" value="jumanamills@sheldonisd.com"/>

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

- Yes
- No

Closing

Signature

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

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

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

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="Brenda Dearmon"/>
School System Grantee Official Title:	<input type="text" value="Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services"/>
School System Grantee Official Email:	<input type="text" value="brendadearmon@sheldonisd.com"/>

Review & Sign

The LASO Cycle 4 Grant has closed.

The closing date was December 3, 2025 at 05:00 PM.

This application can no longer be submitted.

Please close your browser window.

Review & Sign

Before you sign and submit, click the **Review** button to review the completed application, revise as needed, and then sign to submit your final application.

You may only review one time. If you need to review the application again or make any additional revisions, please complete the Request for a Retake link- located on our LASO 4 webpage.

- Review
- Sign and Submit

Signature

Confirmation of Application

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

- Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT)
- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program
- Virtual and Hybrid Program Accelerator (VHPA)

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

Signed On: December 3, 2025 at 02:00 PM



Dr. Brenda Dearmon

clear