

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:	ESC 04: Houston
School System:	THE RHODES SCHOOL FOR PERFORMING ARTS-(101861)

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:	Ashley Miller
School System Employee Title:	Superintendent
School System Employee Email:	amiller@rhodesschool.org

Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	Ashley Miller
Superintendent Email:	amiller@rhodesschool.org

School System Calendar

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

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

LASO Cycle 4 Assurances

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Commit to all assurances associated with the initiatives they intend to apply for.

Failure to agree to these assurances may prevent the school system from completing the application or being considered for awards.

- Ensure the superintendent approves participation in all selected initiatives.

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

Initiative Selection

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

Curriculum & Instruction Grants

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

Education & Training Allotments and Grant

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

More Time Grants

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

Innovative School Models - Launch Grants

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

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="Lakesha Winslow"/>
Email:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="lwinslow@rhodesschool.org"/>
Phone:	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="2819645273"/>

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

Name:	Monet Calhoun
Email:	mcalhoun@rhodesschool.org
Phone:	9033054756

Name:	Ashley Miller
Email:	amiller@rhodesschool.org
Phone:	2817450056

Blended Learning Grant (BLG)

Initiative Description:

The Blended Learning Grant opportunity has two distinct cohorts and associated purposes that applicants will select from, as described below.

The **Blended Learning Academic Cohort** will support school systems and open-enrollment charter schools through a planning stage to design and subsequently implement a high-quality blended learning model in math (through Math Innovation Zones - MIZ) and Reading Language-Arts (RLA) aligned with Bluebonnet Math or Reading as their Tier 1 instruction.

The **Blended Learning Strategic Operations Cohort** will support school systems and open-enrollment charter schools in leveraging a blended learning model to make a strategic operational shift to scheduling, staffing and/or budgets. This shift will seek to make robust operational changes to optimize campus staffing models for teachers while maximizing academic impact for students. The grant is available to school system that have successfully completed a planning phase of either Math Innovation Zones or RLA Blended Learning grants. Applicants will select a blended model that will require significant operational and staffing shifts to rethink time in a teacher-centric way at the participating campus(es).

Note: Both cohorts must choose a specific blended model, integrating a tier one curriculum with a digital supplemental product, from the options [here](#). A participating campus's master schedule may need to be adjusted to accommodate the time blocks required.

For which **Blended Learning Grant Cohort** is the school system applying?

- Academic Cohort (School systems new to Blended Learning Grants)
- Strategic Operations Cohort (School systems from previous TEA Blended Learning Grants, including both math and non-math programs)

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

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Blended Learning Academic Cohort:** School Systems who have previously participated or are currently participating in a strong Tier 1 math and/or reading curriculum planning through a TEA initiative (i.e. LASO 2 Strong Foundations and LASO 1 Strong Foundations).
- **Blended Learning Strategic Operations Cohort:** School Systems who have previously participated in TEA Blended Learning Grants. Applicants must have shown high usage in approved supplemental products in math and/or reading language arts for grades K-8 in spring of 2025.

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

- Yes
- No

Blended Learning Grant (BLG) (cont.)

Initiative Assurances for the Blended Learning Grant (BLG):

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Designate and provide a school system level project manager who will be available to dedicate approximately 50% of their time to designing and implementing the blended learning plan and who has decision making authority to act on developed plan.
- Designate and share with both the TEA and vendors a school system level lead/sponsor for communications, logistics, and usage monitoring. They also agree that this information is updated and maintained throughout the grant.

- Designate and share with TEA and vendors a campus level lead/sponsor for communications, logistics, and usage monitoring. They also agree this is updated and maintained throughout the grant.
- Work with a third-party vendor to complete a technology audit for a landscape analysis of supplemental products currently purchased and/or used at campuses.
- Implement, with fidelity, a digital adaptive software program in grade levels selected to participate in the Blended Learning Grant.
- Submit fidelity of planning deliverables prior to the beginning of the first school year, including but not limited to the following:
 - Master Schedule
 - Assessment Calendar
 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan
 - Professional Learning Calendars
- Complete execution deliverables in program implementation during the grant period, including but not limited to the following:
 - Student usage progress towards the selected adaptive software program recommended metrics.
 - Sharing student TSDS unique IDs with select software product vendor for TEA quarterly reports.
 - Sharing unit assessment data from core curriculum.
 - Complete all required training(s) to build competency with the adaptive software product.
 - Completing all required research surveys throughout the grant program period.
- Participate in required communities of practice and any additional grant program meetings.
- Use a digital supplemental program, approved through the IMRA and/or Ratio Wavier List (RWL), and Bluebonnet Math and/or Reading for Tier 1 instruction.
- Complete all required training(s) to build competency in the online curriculum.
- Complete annual reflection and revision plans in implementation years to continuously improve upon blended learning and/or strategic operations planning.
- Adhere to all statutory requirements in TEC Sections 28.020 and 29.924 including, but not limited to:
 - Develop a plan to implement a blended learning model according to statute requirements.
 - Implement the model across at least one full grade level at the campus and expand to other grade levels and/or campuses.
 - Require teachers to differentiate instruction for all students in a grade level using a research-backed blended learning model.
 - Provide teachers and other relevant personnel with professional development opportunities regarding blended learning.
 - Require the use of a proficiency-based assessment.

Initiative Specific Assurances for the Blended Learning Academic Cohort:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Submit strategic planning deliverables in the first year of implementation, such as a master schedule, assessment calendar, stakeholder engagement plan, professional learning calendars, etc.
- Complete blended learning execution requirements in program implementation, including student progress on selected online curriculum, unit assessment data from Bluebonnet curriculum, and evidence of training completion.

1. Does the school system agree to meet all Initiative Specific Assurances listed above?

- Yes
 No

Blended Learning Grant (BLG) (cont.)

Initiative Requirements for the Blended Learning Grant (BLG):

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Agree that your participating campuses will serve all grade levels within the K-8 Math or K-5 RLA grade bands by the end of the grant period.
- Agree to complete all required training(s) to build competency in the online curriculum.
- Agree to complete annual reflection and revision plans in implementation years to continuously improve upon blended learning and/or strategic operations planning.
- Agree to implement the digital adaptive software program in grade levels selected to participate in the Blended Learning grant.
- Agree to adhere to all statutory requirements in TEC Sections 28.020 and 29.924 including, but not limited to:
 - Develop a plan to implement a blended learning model according to statute requirements.
 - Implement the model across at least one full grade level at the campus and expand to other grade levels and/or campuses.
 - Require teachers to differentiate instruction for all students in a grade level using a research-backed blended learning model.

- Provide teachers and other relevant personnel with professional development opportunities regarding blended learning.
- Require the use of a proficiency-based assessment.

Initiative Specific Requirements for the Blended Learning Academic Cohort:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Agree to implement a Math and/or RLA blended products with Bluebonnet Math or Bluebonnet Reading.
- Agree to identify which SBOE approved Tier 1 curriculum product and supplemental product that will be implemented with a blended learning model from the following options (may choose more than one option):
 - K-5 Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 - 6-8 Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 - HS Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 - K-5 Reading | Bluebonnet with *[approved product]*
- Agree to implement the above Tier 1 curriculum and supplemental products for their selected grade-levels and student population.
- Agree to submit strategic planning deliverables in the first year of implementation, such as a master schedule, assessment calendar, technology audit report, stakeholder engagement plan, professional learning calendars, etc.
- Agree to complete blended learning implementation requirements, including student progress on selected online curriculum, sharing student TSDS unique ID with selected software product, unit assessment data from Tier 1 High Quality Instructional Material (HQIM) curriculum, and evidence of training completion.

2. Does the school system agree to meet the Initiative Specific Requirements listed above?

- Yes
 No

Blended Learning Grant (BLG) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Blended Learning Grant (BLG)

1. How many K-5 campuses is the school system applying to? (Min: 1, Max: Not to exceed the number of available campuses)

1

2. How many 6-8 campuses is the school system applying to? (Min: 1, Max: Not to exceed the number of available campuses)

1

3. Select the blended model subjects the school system is interested in implementing:

- Math
 Reading Language Arts

3a. What SBOE approved Tier 1 curriculum math product and supplemental math product do participating campuses plan on using in the 26-27 school year?

- K-5 Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 K-5 Math | *[IMRA T1 product]* with *[approved product]*
 6-8 Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 6-8 Math | *[IMRA T1 product]* with *[approved product]*

3b. How many students (K–8) school system wide will be participating in math blended learning through this grant?

373

4. What is the school system's total student enrollment in grades K-8?

373

5. Please provide the contact information for the project manager designee or immediate contact for the BLG program.

Name:	Lakesha Winslow
Role:	C and I assistant
Email:	lwinslow@rhodesschool.org
Phone:	2819645273

Initiative Specific Questions for the Blended Learning Academic Cohort:

1. Did the school system participate in any of the current and/or previous TEA grant cohorts?

- Yes
 No

2. Identify the SBOE approved Tier 1 curriculum product and supplemental product that will be implemented with a blended learning model:
(may choose more than one option)

- K-5 Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 6-8 Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 HS Math | Bluebonnet with *[IMRA supplemental approved product]*
 K-5 Reading | Bluebonnet with *[approved product]*

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)

2

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:	Kenitra Bennett
Title:	MSAP Director
Email:	kbennett@rhodesschool.org
Phone:	8328843494

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

Name:	Terrell Hutchinson
Title:	Sped Director
Email:	thutchinson@rhodesschool.org
Phone:	2812209216

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

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

Name:	Zoë Mandel
Title:	Assistant Director
Email:	zoe.mandel@esc4.net
Phone:	713.744.8121

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:	Kenitra Bennett
Title:	MSAP Director
Email:	kbennett@rhodesschool.org
Phone:	8328843494

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

Name:	Terrell Hutchinson
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Title:	SPED Director
Email:	thutchinson@rhodesschool.org
Phone:	2812209216

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)

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

Early College High School (ECHS)

Initiative Description:

The ECHS program is an open-enrollment initiative that integrates college and high school coursework, enabling students to earn a high school diploma and associate degree while still in high school. Designed to support underserved and at-risk students, Early College High Schools offer a successful pathway to postsecondary education. The ECHS program requires that campuses maintain a partnership with an institution of higher education (IHE) to provide dual credit opportunities.

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:

- As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to serving students in Grades 9–12
 - or** will begin serving students in Grade 9
 - or** students in Grades 9 and 10 in the first year of implementation (2027-2028) and will progressively scale up by adding at least one grade level per year after the first year of implementation.
- All current ECHS planning, provisional or designated campuses are not eligible to apply.
- All recipients of previous ECHS Planning and Implementation or LASO Grants are not eligible to apply.
- Any campus that has been given CCRSM Needs Improvement status is not eligible to apply.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- ECHS campuses must establish recruitment and enrollment processes and requirements that will not exclude or discourage the enrollment of any of the subpopulations of at-risk students, including, but not limited to, students who are of limited English proficiency or who have failed a state-administered assessment.
- At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit a data report of enrollment guidelines that follow the enrollment requirements outlined in

the statutory requirements of this grant. Enrollment Guidelines should clearly document enrollment policies and practices to include admissions policies of performance-blind, open access systems that encourage and consider applications from all students or a weighted lottery that factors 10 students who are at-risk as defined by the PEIMS (TEC §29.081) or who are part of the targeted subpopulations for ECHS.

- At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit a data report of stakeholder input methods used to obtain input about the implementation of the program from students, parents, community, postsecondary partners, with regular activities to educate students, parents, counselors, community, district staff, and school board members.
- At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit an academic year signed and dated memorandum of understanding (MOU) and course articulation agreement with one or more college partners that fulfills the statutory requirements of this grant. The agreement must address curriculum alignment, instructional material, instructional calendar, courses of study that lead to an associate degree or up to 60 hours of college credit toward a baccalaureate degree, student enrollment and attendance, grading periods and policies, administration of statewide assessments, and data-sharing policies and procedures.
- At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit a plan of wrap-around strategies and services to provide academic, behavioral, and mental health supports for student success to include a plan for academic mentoring of faculty and student supports for intervention and acceleration, counseling, guidance, and student advisory services for academic, and mental health supports, and behavioral and mental health supports such as parent outreach, connections to social services when needed, and peer mentoring.
- At TEA's request, ECHS campuses must submit a data report of leadership team members, meeting dates, and agendas (including attendance) posted on the school's website.
- The applicant agrees to complete and submit the required CCRSM planning application prior to the beginning of the next school year.

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

- Yes
 No

Early College High School (ECHS) (cont.)

Campus Selection for the Early College High School (ECHS) Grant

*Note: Current ECHS planning, provisional, or designated campuses, recipients of previous ECHS Planning and Implementation Grants or LASO ECHS Grants, and any campus with CCRSM Needs Improvement status are **not eligible** to apply.*

1. Does your school system currently operate any Early College High School(s) (ECHS) or Pathways in Technology Early College High School(s) (P-TECH)?

- Yes
 No

2. How many **new campuses** within your school system would be considered for this grant?

(Min: 1, Max: 3 but not to exceed the number of available campuses)

Early College High School (ECHS) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Early College High School (ECHS) Grant

Please select the first campus to be considered for this grant:

Reminder: Do not submit unsolicited attachments. Unsolicited attachments will not be reviewed.

1. In 300 words or less, detail how your campus arrived at the decision to apply for this grant. Include at least one key motivation, one challenge, and one opportunity explored during discussions with stakeholders such as school board members, faculty/staff, and parents/students that is specific to your community. Highlight any data or research that influenced the decision.

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Question1.pdf](#)

61KB
application/pdf

2. ECHS campuses must enter into an articulation agreement with an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in accordance with 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.25. Name the partnering IHE that has agreed to meet the requirements of an ECHS partnership.

San Jacinto College North Campus

3. Upload the Letter of support (not MOU) from an Institution of Higher Education for the future ECHS campus in the box below. Please encourage the IHE to specifically address your future ECHS campus partnership and plans.

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Letter of Support .pdf](#)

243KB
application/pdf

4. Name of the associate degree which the ECHS campus intends to offer. Also, please list any additional Industry-based certifications (IBC) or Level I (or Level II) certificates that the future ECHS campus plans to offer.

Associate of Arts, Associate of Science

5. Upload the course of study/crosswalk that the school is planning to offer. **Please refer to the [ECHS Blueprint](#) (2.4, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5) when answering this question.**

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Crosswalk.pdf](#)

17KB
application/pdf

6. In 300 words or less, describe how the postsecondary credentials earned by students meet the local economic needs in the ECHS academic plan. **Please refer to the [ECHS Blueprint](#) (4.1, 4.2 and 4.4) when answering this question.**

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Question 6.pdf](#)

124KB
application/pdf

7. In 300 words or less, describe how the campus and district intend to work with and secure the partnership with an IHE and align the needs of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that addresses topics such as but not limited to: funding, instructional materials, transportation costs, joint professional development, and data sharing, and access to student data. **Please refer to the [ECHS Blueprint](#) (1.9, 2.3, 2.7 and 2.14) when answering this question.**

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Question 6.pdf](#)

124KB
application/pdf

8. In 300 words or less, please outline at least three key strategies for the future recruitment and enrollment process that meet the ECHS open enrollment requirements for your district and student population. **Please refer to the [ECHS Blueprint](#) (3.1, 3.3 and 3.4) when answering this**

question.

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Recruitment Plan.pdf](#)

95KB
application/pdf

9. Provide examples of how the future campus plans to offer a system of academic supports to all students. List at least three activities and three brief descriptions that are specific to your campus and future student population. **Please refer to the [ECHS Blueprint \(4.7, 5.3 and 5.4\)](#) when answering this question.**

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Recruitment Plan.pdf](#)

95KB
application/pdf

10. After completing a successful second year of serving as a LASO 4.0 ECHS campus, the campus leader and school counselor are promoted to other positions outside of your district, and the district ECHS program budget is reduced. In 300 words or less, please describe the sustainability measures implemented at your campus beforehand to address and mitigate the challenges of leadership changes, staff turnover, and potential future funding fluctuations.

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

[The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts ECHS Sustainability.pdf](#)

56KB
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.

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

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

Are you the Superintendent?

- Yes
- No

Please provide the following:

Superintendent Name :

Superintendent Email:

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)
- Blended Learning Grant (BLG)
- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program
- Early College High School (ECHS)

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

Signed On: December 3, 2025 at 04:59 PM



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