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:	YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS INC-(101845)

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:	Kimberly Gallegos
School System Employee Title:	Director of Government Grants
School System Employee Email:	kimberly.gallegos@yesprep.org

Superintendent Contact Information

Enter the school system superintendent's contact information.

Superintendent Name:	Mark DiBella
Superintendent Email:	Mark.DiBella@yesprep.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)
- [x] Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP)

Education & Training Allotments and Grant

- [x] PREP Residency Preservice Program
- [ ] PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program
- [ ] PREP Mentorship Program
- [x] 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)

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP)

Initiative Description:

The APCSP Grant program is designed to meet workforce demands and provide valuable student pathways to high-wage and in-demand careers. According to the College Board, students who took an APCSP course were twice as likely to continue along a computer science pathway. Students who took an APCSP course in high school were three times more likely to major in computer science in college, with this data being consistent across various demographics. With the LASO 4 APCSP Grant funds, Texas public schools can begin to build, expand, and sustain a computer science pathway.

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

Eligibility Criteria:

- All Texas school systems are eligible.

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Contract with an Approved Provider from the LASO Cycle 4 Approved Provider List for curriculum and training.
- Adhere to all Statutory and TEA Program Requirements and Assurances as noted in the 2025-2026 APCSP Grant Program Guidelines.
- Adhere to all APCSP Grant performance measures as noted in the 2025-2026 APCSP Grant Program Guidelines.
- Use grant funds only for APCSP classroom supplies and technology, teacher training, and directly related expenses for implementing an APCSP course.
- Administer the APCSP exam to district-enrolled students participating in the APCSP course, at no cost to the student.

Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

- Complete the necessary district process to obtain school board approval to include the APCSP course in the district's course catalog for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Provide the APCSP course exam to enrolled students free of charge.
- Provide the technology, equipment and any additional resources required for a successfully functioning APCSP course.
- Publicize the APCSP course offering to relevant stakeholders, high school students and their parents/guardians.
- Recruit, onboard, and arrange for professional development for certified teachers to teach the APCSP course.
- Provide a description of how the funds will be used, if awarded.
- Continue providing the current level or increase the number of APCSP course opportunities.
- Provide the number of district campuses that will offer the APCSP grant opportunity and the number of teachers to be trained.
- Provide the necessary student support structures to prepare enrolled students to score 3 or higher on the APCSP exam.

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP) (cont.)

Initiative Specific Questions for the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP) Grant.

1. If this grant is awarded, briefly describe how the school system plans to use the funds provided with this grant.

This grant would be used to pay for: - AP exam fees for all APCSP students so they can take the exam at no cost. - APCSP curriculum and software with an integrated development environment (Code HS) - High quality APCSP teacher professional development. Any teacher who has not completed an AP Summer Institute will enroll. In addition we hope to offer quarterly APCSP professional development through an external provider (CodeHS) that is responsive to our AP results and teacher development need

2. Does the school system currently offer College Board Advanced Placement courses for student enrollment?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Does the school system currently offer an APCSP course on one or more campuses?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

4. Has the school system participated in any other APCSP grant opportunities?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5. If awarded, how many of the school system's campuses will offer the APCSP course? ***(Min: 1, Max: Not to exceed the number of available campuses)***

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6. If awarded, how many teachers will be trained during the summer of 2026 to teach one or more sections of the APCSP course in fall 2026?

5

7. Enter contact information for the school system's primary point of contact for the APCSP grant

Name:	Kimberly Gallegos
Title:	Director of Government Grants
Email:	kimberly.gallegos@yesprep.org
Phone:	713-924-5483

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)

40

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:	Bereket Worku
Title:	Director of Recruitment and Selection
Email:	bereket.worku@yesprep.org
Phone:	832-691-8421

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

Name:	Casey Story
Title:	Texas Tech University Coordinator
Email:	casey.story@yesprep.org
Phone:	713-924-5518

4. Who are the school system's currently established EPP partner(s) with an SBEC-approved Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route Educator Preparation Program (TTRPR)?

Note: *When Educator Preparation Programs are approved for the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Program (TTRPR), they attest in their application and through the amendment process their school system partnerships.*

Texas Tech University

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.*

Texas Tech University

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

Name:	Sherre Heider
Title:	Assistant Dean for Teacher Education
Email:	sherre.heider@ttu.edu
Phone:	806-632-8889

The applicant must agree to train its resident cooperating teachers via the Texas Mentorship Training.

TEA anticipates proposing rule to further defining cooperating teachers for the purpose of PREP Residency Preservice Program by adopting the definition of host teacher currently in TAC §228.95.

Roles

- **Resident Cooperating (Host) Teacher:** For the PREP Preservice Residency Program, statute defines a cooperating teacher as a classroom teacher who is a school system employee; has at least three full school years of teaching experience with a superior record of assisting students in achieving improvement in student performance; and is paired with one or more teacher candidates (new TEC §21.902).
- **PREP Mentorship Training Requirements:** Summer 2026, Fall 2026, Winter 2026-27 and Spring 2027 (24-30 total hours)

School systems must self-report the estimated number of resident cooperating teachers that would attend training for SY 2026-27.

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7. How many host teachers does the school system estimate will attend the training? ***(Min: 1, Max: 40)***.

Note: *This should correlate to the anticipated number of residents the school system will have in SY 2026-27.*

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Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant

Initiative Description:

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

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

Eligibility Criteria:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

Initiative Assurances:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

schedule grant activities and complete program deliverables.

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

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

    Note: *the plan must include sustainable funding for teacher residents and host teacher stipends/salaries.*
- **School System and EPP Partnerships**
  - Establish a partnership with at least one EPP that has been approved by the SBEC to offer the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Route (TTRPR).
  - Sign a letter of commitment or a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the ESC technical assistance provider. The EPP(s) must also confirm their commitment to the strategic staffing design and implementation process with the applicant.
  - Set shared goals for school system paid resident placements in mutually beneficial staffing model positions.
  - Hold structured governance meetings at least quarterly to analyze teacher resident data and develop plans for teacher residency continuous improvement during the SY 2027-28 residency implementation year.
  - Work collaboratively with your EPP partner(s) to design a strategic staffing model and corresponding stipend amounts.
  - Adhere to all educator preparation program requirements for residency in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 228.
  - Provide preferential hiring, to the greatest extent possible, to teacher residents who have successfully completed the teacher residency program and received enhanced standard certification.
- **Technical Assistance for Design and Implementation**
  - Work with an ESC technical assistance provider for the SY 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years to make key decisions and design structures that enable internal capacity to continue the strategic staffing models without the support of the technical assistance provider in SY 2028-29 and beyond.
  - Ensure that a designated team of leaders from the school system, campuses, and EPP(s) will actively participate in strategic staffing model training and technical assistance support activities beginning in SY 2026-27.
  - Attend sustainability meetings with their technical assistance provider each semester of SY 2027-28 (implementation year) to determine sustainable strategic staffing model and funding sources, as applicable, after the life of the grant.
  - Manages or directly supports the school system's PREP Residency Preservice Program if awarded the PREP Residency Preservice Program Allotment.

Initiative Requirements:

As the applicant, the school system hereby agrees to:

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

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

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

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

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

Name:	Bereket Worku

Title:	Director of Recruitment and Staffing
Email:	bereket.worku@yesprep.org
Phone:	713-924-0226

1a. Top three responsibilities in their role:

Oversee Recruitment for YES Prep, Oversee TTU Residency Program, Events and strategy for district outreach and hiring

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

Monthly

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

The Strategic Staffing Lead will coordinate cross-departmental planning with Finance
Talent
and Academics to embed residency funding into recurring district budgets and compensation structures. They will monitor program outcomes
identify efficiencies in host teacher and resident placement models
and align sustainability planning with district hiring and staffing forecasts to ensure the continuation of paid residencies beyond the grant period.

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

The district will maintain a documented sustainability plan
shared data systems
and collaborative ownership between the Talent and Finance teams to minimize disruption. Key processes
templates
and timelines will be housed in the district's shared drives and reviewed quarterly. In the event of turnover
the Managing Director of Talent and the Senior HR Business Partner will serve as immediate points of continuity
both trained in the program's design and reporting requirements.

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

Name:	Casey Story
Title:	Texas Tech University Coordinator
Email:	casey.story@yesprep.org
Phone:	713-924-5518

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

Note: *When Educator Preparation Programs are approved for the Texas Teacher Residency Preparation Program (TTRPR), they attest in their application and through the amendment process their school system partnerships.*

Texas Tech University

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

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

Texas Tech University

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

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

2025.11.20_LASO - Yes Prep Public Schools - Signed.pdf

115KB

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 :	Mark DiBella
Superintendent Email:	Mark.DiBella@yesprep.org

Review & Sign

The LASO Cycle 4 Grant has closed.

The closing date was December 3, 2025 at 05:00 PM.
This application can no longer be submitted.

Please close your browser window.

Review & Sign

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

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

- (●) Review
- ( ) Sign and Submit

Signature

Confirmation of Application

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

- AP Computer Science Principles (APCSP)
- PREP Residency Preservice Program
- Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grant

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

Signed On: November 21, 2025 at 10:21 AM