



**2021-2023 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant  
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2021**

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation

This LOI application must be submitted via email to [loiapplications@tea.texas.gov](mailto:loiapplications@tea.texas.gov).  
 The LOI application may be signed with a digital ID or it may be signed by hand. Both forms of signature are acceptable.  
 TEA must receive the application by **11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2021**.

Grant period from

Pre-award costs permitted from

**Required Attachments**

1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)
  2. Pathway 1: Pathway 1 Supplemental Pathway Attachment
  3. Pathway 2: Pathway 2 Supplemental Pathway Attachment
- NOTE: All applicants MUST submit an appropriate Supplemental Pathway Attachment for EACH CAMPUS on behalf of which the applicant is applying.**

**Amendment Number**

Amendment number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds):

**Applicant Information**

Organization  CDN  Campus  ESC  DUNS   
 Address  City  ZIP  Vendor ID   
 Primary Contact  Email  Phone   
 Secondary Contact  Email  Phone

**Certification and Incorporation**

I understand that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by TEA or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement. I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and that the organization named above has authorized me as its representative to obligate this organization in a legally binding contractual agreement. I certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance and compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

I further certify my acceptance of the requirements conveyed in the following portions of the LOI application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the LOI application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- LOI application, guidelines, and instructions  Debarment and Suspension Certification  
 General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances  Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name  Title

Email  Phone

Signature  Date

**Shared Services Arrangements**

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are NOT permitted for this grant.

**Number of Campuses Included in this Application**

Pathway 1	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Pathway 2	<input type="text" value="1"/>

**Statutory/Program Assurances**

The following assurances apply to this program. In order to meet the requirements of the program, the applicant must comply with these assurances.

Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this LOI will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- 2. The applicant provides assurance that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.
- 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2021-2023 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines.
- 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2021-2023 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
- 5. The applicant provides assurance that they accept and will comply with the requirements of [Every Student Succeeds Act Provisions and Assurances](#).
- 6. The applicant assures that any Electronic Information Resources (EIR) produced as part of this agreement will comply with the State of Texas Accessibility requirements as specified in 1 TAC 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines.
- 7. Title I served Federally Identified campuses awarded this grant will engage in the Effective Schools Framework (ESF) continuous improvement process and create a plan to be submitted to TEA that addresses the selected pathway aligned to the Essential Actions (EA) from the ESF.
- 8. The applicant ensures it will notify the Vetted Improvement Program provider of intent to apply and, if awarded, will work in good faith with the Vetted Improvement Program.
- 9. For all pathways, the applicant will budget at least the minimum amount indicated in the Budget Object Code 6200 - Profession and Contracted Services.

**Statutory/Program Assurances, cont'd.**

- 10. The applicant will identify a campus leader, on each awarded campus, who will be responsible for managing the grant project.
- 11. The applicant will provide access to TEA and its Vetted Improvement Partners for on-site visits to the district and campus(es) as appropriate.
- 12. The applicant will attend and participate in grant orientation meetings, technical assistance meetings, other periodic meetings of grantees, and sharing of best practices through the TEA program office.
- 13. The applicant provides assurance it will participate in all grant requirements including but not limited to an ESF Self-Assessment, and ESF Diagnostic, developing a web-based improvement plan, submission of funding and pathway progress reports.

**Summary of Program**

1. Describe how the LEA will support campus(es) in carrying out school support and improvement activities, including how the LEA will develop a web-based improvement plan for the eligible campuses selected for this grant.

The Lawson Academy is a one-campus LEA. All school support strategies will be implemented at the single campus (101864041) using the following activities:

- 1) Accommodating operational flexibility through the shifting of resources, processes, and practices in response to identified and/or critical needs.
- 2) Developing and updating the improvement plan by:
  - a) utilizing a diverse, representative team with assigned roles and responsibilities;
  - b) evaluating and reviewing data sources, including COVID hybrid learning results and peer practices;
  - c) incorporating the ESF Site Visit report from February 2020 and identifying additional areas of high priority;
  - d) conducting a root cause analysis and updating prior year analysis;
  - e) developing SMART goals in partnership with staff and leadership;
  - f) collaboratively developing strategies for FY22 and FY23 implementation; and
  - g) in alliance with leadership and partners, create clear implementation activities to achieve identified goals.
- 3) The Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) implementation will continue to be closely monitored and supported by Region IV and TEA, through the ESF process, in addition to the Campus Leadership Team.
- 4) Allowing our strategies and approaches to be tailored to the needs of campus and leadership team while making certain to implement effective use of staff and equipment resources.
- 5) Incorporating creativity so that when necessary, "standard practice" may be updated or even eliminated to achieve identified goals.
- 6) Eliminating barriers to improvement and empowering staff to be responsive in support of school leadership.
- 7) Utilizing human capital (both internal and external) and other available resources to insure a successful learning environment whether on-campus, hybrid or virtual.
- 8) Prioritizing teaching and learning by implementing systemic protocols including peer-developed "best practices".
- 9) Communicating a clear, focused vision for campus continuous improvement which is fully aligned with collaborative efforts for student success.

2. Describe how the LEA will monitor schools receiving the ESF-Focused Support Grant, including how the LEA will: (a) Monitor a web-based improvement plans upon submission and during implementation, and (b) Implement additional action following unsuccessful implementation of such plan after the first year of the grant cycle.

The Lawson Academy's web-based improvement plan will be monitored to ensure compliance using the following activities:

- 1) Quarterly reporting of Formative Reviews (BOY, MOY, EOY)
- 2) Capture of Formative Review data for analysis and instructional adjustment
- 3) Regular (weekly or semi-monthly) faculty data digs to track student performance by TEKS
- 4) School data reports to support the implementation of highly effective lesson planning
- 5) Ongoing Principal supervision and CLT coaching, including use of partner PD to implement best practices and increase teacher effectiveness
- 6) Continued training for content-area and all-faculty professional development
- 7) Learning walks (of virtual instruction), campus visits and observations by Principal and partners
- 8) Direct coaching and feedback (from Principal, partners and CLT)
- 9) Onsite observation visits and timely feedback as evidenced through agendas, PLC and T-TESS reporting

If the campus is unsuccessful in the implementation of the plan in the first year of the grant cycle the LEA and school will:

- 1) Review all sources of data to determine barriers
- 2) Initiate an additional root cause analysis
- 3) As a team, develop strategies for corrective implementation
- 4) Consistently monitor implementation of correction actions and project strategies, making adjustment as necessary

**Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, Performance and Evaluation**

1. Describe how the LEA will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility to the awarded campus, that enables full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web-based Improvement Plan.

The Lawson Academy will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility that enables full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web based Improvement Plan by:

- 1) Continuing to identify ineffective practices and processes that can impact student performance and removing or improving practices and processes so that student's will be more like to succeed
- 2) Ensuring teacher capacity through targeted professional development in writing lesson plan objectives with TEK(S) aligned formative assessments
- 3) Adjusting teacher alignment to maximize workforce effectiveness that will positively impact explicit and rigorous standards for student learning
- 4) Building teacher capacity through targeted professional development in delivering instruction that is focused on specific data points BOY, curriculum checkpoints, weekly exit tickets to drive lessons that focus on sub populations, individual students and whole grade level academic strengths and weaknesses
- 5) Reducing potential barriers through professional development, staff scheduling and skills alignment
- 6) Responding and/or adjusting goals when they are not met in a timely manner
- 7) As needed, access District and Board approval through weekly Superintendent/Principal and monthly Board of Directors meetings to plan and implement identified school improvement initiatives
- 8) CLT will host "train the trainer" model lesson demonstrations focused on data to provide feedback to content teams and which stresses the importance of data-driven lessons
- 9) Continuously review systemic, district-wide practices and expand web based Improvement Plan review team to include CLT, parents and content team leadership
- 10) With district approval, refine tools used to effect staff effectiveness (e.g., Know and Show Chart, lesson plan checklist)
- 11) Continue to review and improve digital curriculum to fulfill TEA and district goals

**Budget Narrative**

1. Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including for staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. If applicable, include a high-level snapshot of funds currently allocated to similar programs. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

Personnel costs (object code 6100) have been committed to the Campus Leadership Team (CLT), our teacher leaders. Existing teachers and prospective CLT members will be vetted, selected and provided a supplemental stipend to carry out extra duty pay activities as Master Teachers. These CLT members will also receive compensation for additional days/hours or work to support school-wide improvement. The Project Coordinator will also receive a stipend for reporting and oversight responsibilities. Finally, the Personnel budget includes Substitute costs to cover classroom instruction when teachers attend professional learning opportunities with E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas. The CLT will collaborate with the Principal and Superintendent to develop and maintain the web based Improvement Plan.

The majority of the budget applies to Contracted Services (object code 6200) for contracted services to work in strategic partnership with E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas towards improvement in objective-driven daily lesson plans with formative assessments (ESF 5.1) and data-driven instruction (ESF 5.3). The Lawson Academy Superintendent, Principal, campus leaders and instructional staff will engage with E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas facilitators, in activities such as, but not limited to coaching sessions, professional learning, transformative work, connecting to the Effective Schools Framework, enhancing strategic plans, instructional models, the utilization of data to improve instruction, and individualized pathways for supporting instructional staff through the cycles of observation, feedback, coaching and continuous improvement. The E3 Alliance RAISEup Texas consultants will participate in planning for and updates the web based Improvement Plan.

A budget for supplies/materials (object 6300) will be used for manipulatives, supplemental instructional materials, books and supplies.

The Lawson Academy typically receives Title I funding used for Intervention instruction of Reading and Math, Classroom Aides, Parent Engagement Liaison, supplies and materials. If awarded, this grant will support the effective development and consultative support for a more robust leadership team which can help to drive high-quality instruction through coaching, professional development, lesson planning and data analysis.

**Budget Narrative, cont'd.**

2. Describe how the LEA will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this grant.

The proposed budget for this project has been collaboratively developed by instructional leaders to address the ESF goals identified during a comprehensive needs assessment process. All funds awarded under the Title 1, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant will be coordinated with other federal funding programs to provide needed programs, instruction, and services to all Academy students while maximizing the impact of available resources. These funds will be used to increase the effectiveness of math and reading content delivery and impact student success on standardized testing (STAAR) while increasing teacher capacity.

**Equitable Access and Participation**

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this program.

- The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this program.
- Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>



**Appendix I: Amendment Description and Purpose** (leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding)

An amendment must be submitted when the program plan or budget is altered for the reasons described in the "When to Amend the Application" document posted on the [Administering a Grant](#) page. The following are required to be submitted for an amendment: (1) Page 1 of the application with updated contact information and current authorized official's signature and date, (2) Appendix I with changes identified and described, (3) all updated sections of the application or budget affected by the changes identified below, and, if applicable, (4) Amended Budget Request. Amendment Instructions with more details can be found on the last tab of the budget template.

*You may duplicate this page*

**Amended Section**

**Reason for Amendment**