



**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.

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

RFA # SAS #

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

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.

Rule ISD will support the campus staff in carrying out the school support and improvement activities in the following ways:

*Rule ISD administrators and lead instructional teachers will participate in the Texas Instructional Leadership training in conjunction with Region 14 Education Service Center Staff to allow us to better implement the school improvement activities. Supports that the TIL Program will provide the District include:

*Training on quality interim assessments, high quality lesson plans/curriculum materials that align to assessments

*Training on effectively using data meetings that result in evidence based action planning and creating effective principal monitoring tools for post-assessment action plans.

*Rule ISD will implement regularly scheduled Campus Leadership Team Meetings attended by the District Coordinator of School Improvement.

*Rule ISD will have the superintendent, principal, and, as needed, elementary and secondary teachers attend ESC school improvement trainings as well as trainings regarding the creation of the web-based improvement plan.

*Rule ISD will have the superintendent dedicate time to serve as the Principal Supervisor for TIL.

*Rule ISD will create a web-based improvement plan that will be written by district and campus leadership, including the superintendent, principal, and leadership team.

*Rule ISD will contract with Region 14 ESC to provide TIL and Curriculum Support.

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.

Rule ISD will monitor the ESF-Focused Support Grant in multiple ways, including:

The superintendent, also acting as the campus contact for the grant, will conduct regularly scheduled leadership meetings to review the plan.

Leadership Team Meetings will be attended by the superintendent, principal, and teachers of the elementary and secondary campuses. As needed, the counselor and members of the TIL team from Region 14 ESC may be invited to attend.

Data will be collected by members of the leadership team, including the principal and superintendent.

Improvement plan information will be entered online by the principal and superintendent or, if needed, by supporting district personnel.

Meetings with Region 14 ESC TIL staff will occur during the summer as well as multiple times throughout the school year. Meetings will occur both at Region 14 and on the school campus. Meetings will be attended by the superintendent, principal, and teacher members of the leadership team.

The Rule ISD 2021-2022 school calendar will include at least 2 dedicated staff development days to address implementation of the school improvement plan.

The District Leadership Team will review the plan implementation success of Year 1 during the summer of 2022 and make adjustments for Year 2

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.

To assist with the implementation of the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web-based Improvement Plan, Rule ISD will:

1. Improve the District's commitment to have effective, well-supported teachers by:

- *Building teacher capacity through observation and feedback cycles
- *Equipping campus instructional leaders to use normed tools and processes to conduct observations, capture trends, and track progress over time.
- *Initiate observation debrief conversations occur within 48 hours of observations and include high-leverage, bite-sized, clear, actionable feedback with clear models and opportunities to practice.
- *Insure campus instructional leaders conduct follow up observations after coaching sessions to monitor implementation of feedback within agreed-upon time frames.
- *Have campus instructional leaders determine the frequency of observations based on teacher needs and student results on formative assessments.

2. Improve the District's goal of creating a positive school culture by:

- *Creating a compelling and aligned vision, mission, goals, values focused on a safe environment and high expectations and engaging stakeholders in creating and continually refining the campus mission, vision, and values.
- *Having campus practices and policies demonstrate high expectations and shared ownership for student success, with a drive towards college and career readiness and postsecondary success.
- *Ensuring staff members share a common understanding of the mission, vision, and values in practice and can explain how they are present in the daily life of the school.
- *Conducting regular campus climate surveys and assess and measure progress on student and staff experiences.
- *Communicating explicit behavioral expectations and management systems for students and staff.
- *Ensuring staff and students are taught, practice, and reinforce behavioral expectations with a common language.
- *Having staff and students understand a system of rewards and consequences, including restorative practices, and consistently implements the system with fidelity.

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.

Rule ISD's proposed grant budget will meet the needs for the program in the following ways:

*Based on an possible award grant of \$99,000 over a 2-year period, the District currently proposes to focus the program budget on supplementing the instructional program in three key areas:

1. Instructional Leadership Development
 - a. Participation in the Texas Instructional Leadership program through Region 14 Education Service Center
 - b. Projected Expenditures: \$20,000

2. Instructional Technology Improvement and Enhancement
 - a. Purchase of additional student devices to achieve a 1:1 student to computer ratio for the District. This will allow for all of our students to have access to a device in every classroom during every class period of the day.
 - b. Purchase of updated teacher instructional classroom technology. Proposed purchases include Hovercam E-Glasses and Promethean Boards.
 - c. Projected Expenditures: \$39,000

3. New Instructional Interventionist Personnel
 - a. Hiring of an Interventionist Teacher or Support Personnel to assist with reading and math intervention.
 - b. Projected Expenditures: \$40,000

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.

In addition to the funds awarded through the ESF Grant, the District will use the following additional funds to support the overall efforts of school improvement:

1. Title I funds will fund other instructional assistance that will help all students increase success in the classroom, evidenced by increased performance in classroom work and student assessments.
2. Title IIA funds will be used to fund further teacher training in subject and age specific instructional techniques.
3. Local District Funds will be used in multiple ways including:
 - *Provide travel and meal expenses during school improvement trainings.
 - *Cover substitute costs while staff is at school improvement trainings.
 - *Purchase instructional and curriculum materials.
 - *Other materials and training as needed to enhance the instructional effectiveness of District teachers.

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 | | Barrier | |
| Group | | Barrier | |
| Group | | Barrier | |
| Group | | Barrier | |

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