



# Strong Foundations Planning

*October 19, 2023*

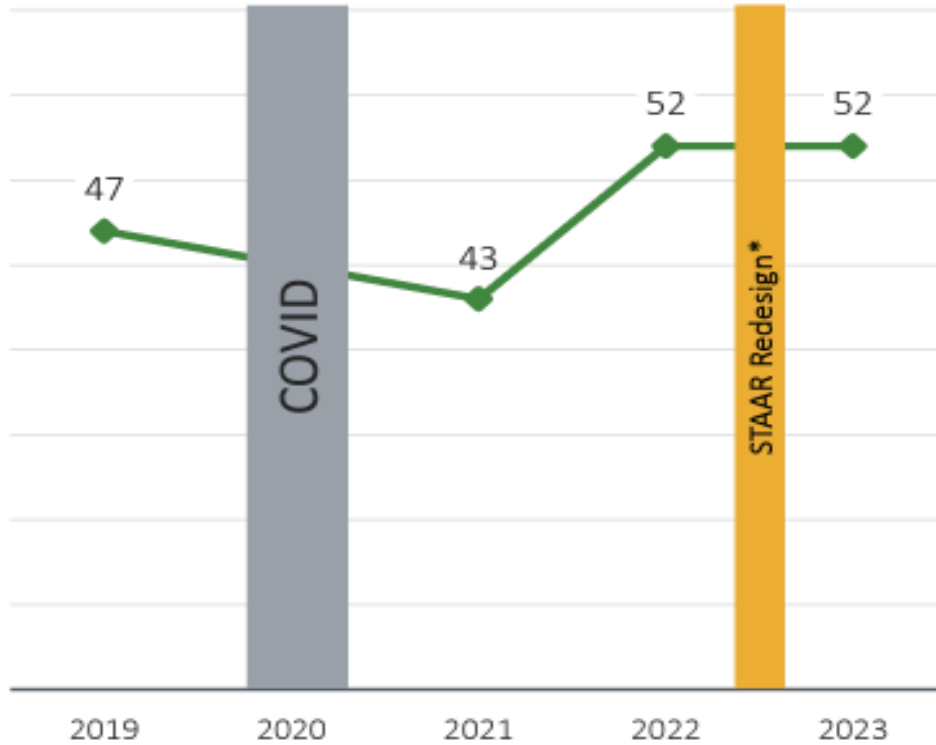


# Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Cycle II

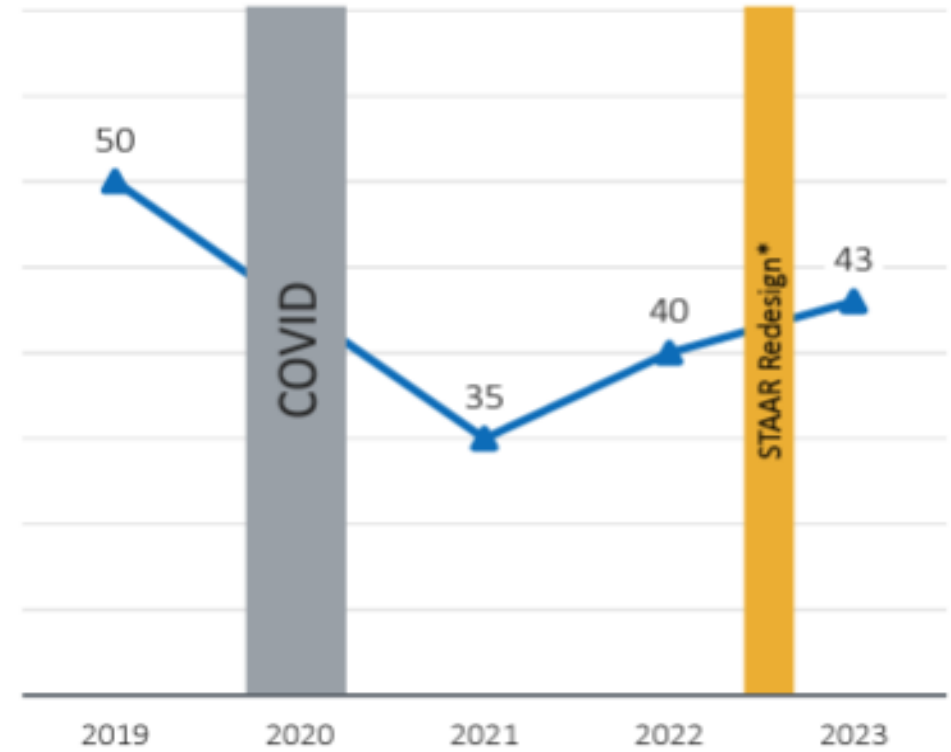
Oct 23-Dec 7, 2023

# While we have seen a rebound in STAAR RLA and Math results, continued attention is needed to accelerate learning

**Percent of Students that Met Grade Level or Above in RLA**  
(Grades 3-8, English I & II)



**Percent of Students that Met Grade Level or Above in Math**  
(Grades 3-8 & Algebra I)



\*The STAAR test was redesigned in 2019 to better align with classroom instruction, which necessitated re-setting of standards and scales from 2022 to 2023. Source: [2022-2023 STAAR Results Analysis \(texas.gov\)](https://www.texas.gov/info/2022-2023-staar-results-analysis)

# Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Cycle II

The Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Cycle II is the next iteration of a consolidated grant application that strategically batches funding opportunities that support learning acceleration and innovation opportunities.

**~\$190.2M**

in services and  
supports

**10**

TEA initiatives to  
support learning  
acceleration and  
innovation

**1**

LEA program  
application to access  
funding



# LASO will provide 10 grant opportunities embedded in three learning acceleration strategies



## Instructional Materials

### Strong Foundations Planning

Ready to plan in SY24-25 and implement in SY25-26

*\*RLA/Math planning support*

### Strong Foundations Implementation

Ready to Implement in SY24-25

*\*OER K-5 Math/RLA and OER 6-12 Math high quality instructional material implementation support*

### Technology Lending Grant

Ready to Implement in SY24-25

*\*Tablets, hardware, and internet hotspots for digital instructional materials*

### Blended Learning Grant

Ready to Implement in SY24-25

*Includes Planning and Strategic Operations Cohorts, Technical assistance and supplemental curriculum support to design and implementation of a high fidelity blended learning model*

### Math Supplemental Curriculum Licenses

Launch: Spring/Summer 2024

*\*PK-12 supplemental online curriculum*

### Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP)

Ready to Implement in SY24-25

*\*Curriculum, technology and teacher support APCSP course*



## More Time

### ADSY Planning & Execution Program: Summer

Ready to Implement in SY24-25

*\*PreK-5 planning and implementation support to design evidence-based summer learning program*



## More Time

### ADSY Planning & Execution Program: Full Year

*\*PreK-5 planning and implementation support for a full calendar and master schedule redesign. Ready to Implement SY 24-25*

**Now included as one of the options in School Action Fund**



## Innovative School Models

### Pathways in Technology Early College High School

Planning Year | SY24-25

Implementation Year | SY 25-26

*\*provides opportunities to students to earn certifications*

### Early College High School

Planning Year | SY24-25

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### School Action Fund

Ready to plan in SY24-25

*\*support in planning and implementing whole-school models to address chronic underperformance and unmet community needs*

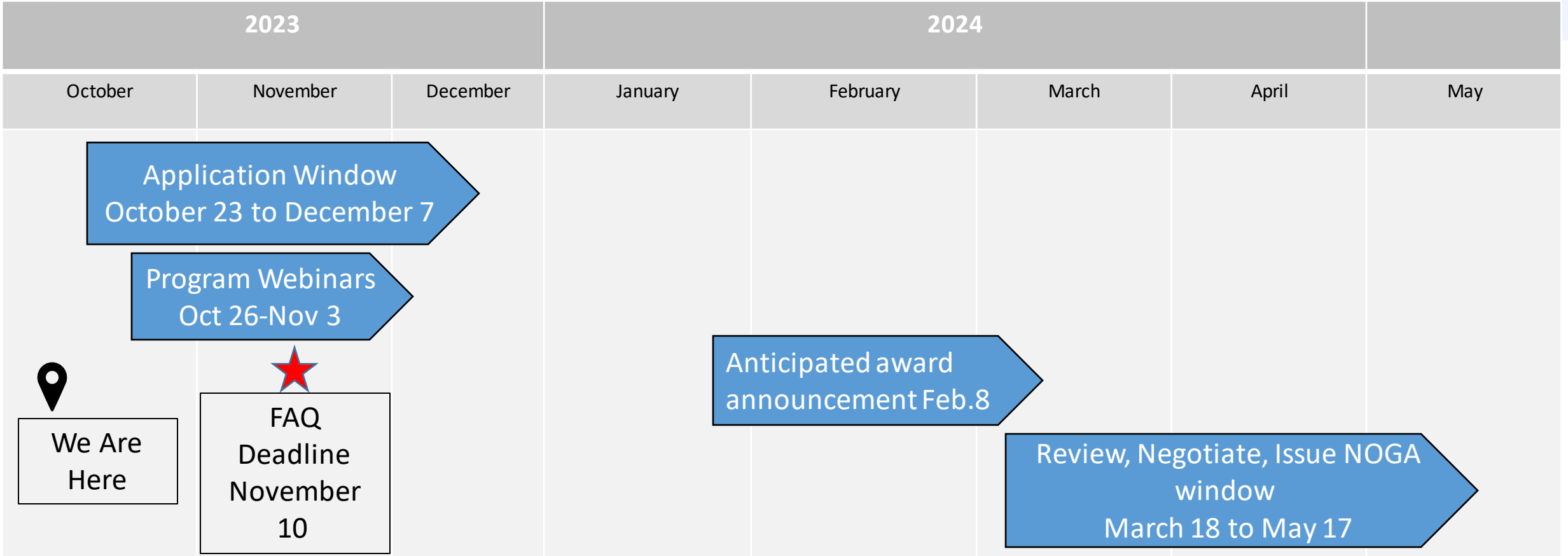


## LASO Cycle II grants at a glance summary

| Grant Name  | Estimated Range of Award  | Estimated Awards   |
|---|---|--------------------|
| Strong Foundations Planning (SFP)                               | \$140K to \$400K  | 70-110 LEAs        |
| Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI)                         | \$25K to \$5M+  | 75-150 LEAs        |
| Blended Learning Grant (BLG)                                    | Planning- \$110K-\$400K<br>Strategic Operations- \$190K- \$500K | 10 LEAs<br>12 LEAs |
| Math Supplemental Curriculum (MSC)                              | ~\$100k (In-Kind supports)                                      | 250+ LEAs          |
| Early College High School (ECHS)                                | Up to \$100K  | 10 LEAs            |
| Pathways in Technology ECHS (P-Tech)                            | Up to \$100K  | 10 LEAs            |
| School Action Fund (SAF)<br>• including ADSY Full Year Redesign | \$185K-\$500K<br>(per Campus)                                   | 36 Campuses        |
| ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator                                | Up to \$25K-\$400K  | 25-35 LEAs         |
| Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP)       | Up to \$100K  | Up to 30 LEAs      |
| Technology Lending Grant (TLG)                                  | Up to \$225K  | 50-100 LEAs        |

More information can be found on [LASO website](#)

# Timeline and application process



## Key Considerations

- **Application** | opens on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and closes on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. LEAs have 45 days to complete the consolidated application
- **Scoring and Interview** | Runs from January 2<sup>nd</sup> to January 30<sup>th</sup>. This window allows TEA to score applications and reach out to as needed, to provide a two-way opportunity to determine readiness and fit.
- **NOGA- direct awards only** | There is a 60-day window for NOGA issuing. The process will start on March 18<sup>th</sup> and culminate on May 17<sup>th</sup>. LEAs can receive their NOGA at any time between that window. Note, the NOGA can only be issued once the LEAs certifies and submits their budget in the e-grants system. If there is a delay in LEAs submission, that may impact the NOGA date.

**Visit** the [LASO Cycle II website](#) to familiarize yourself with preliminary grant information and start key strategic conversations with your internal teams.

## **Featured:**

- One-Pager- to provide key information on all 10 grants in one document, updated as needed.
- Timelines- to provide dates of LASO application window, award announcement, NOGA
- Key Dates- Dates and Registration links for all Webinars and Office Hours

## **Coming soon:**

- Individual Program Guidelines for all grants- *will be posted on October 23rd*



Unique application links will be sent individually to Superintendents on October 23rd. *If you do not receive an email, please submit the form located on the LASO Cycle II Website*





# Strong Foundations Grant Programs

# Strong Foundations was funded by the legislature to provide content and implementation supports for school systems



## In Statute

TEC Sec. 29.0881. (a) The commissioner shall establish and administer a strong foundations grant program for campuses or a program at a campus serving students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade five to implement a **rigorous school approach** that combines **high-quality instruction, materials, and support structures**.

## Planning Supports

Technical assistance to district leadership teams on math & **literacy cognitive science research & instructional materials best practices**, extended school year scheduling, early childhood systems, and instructional leadership strategic planning.

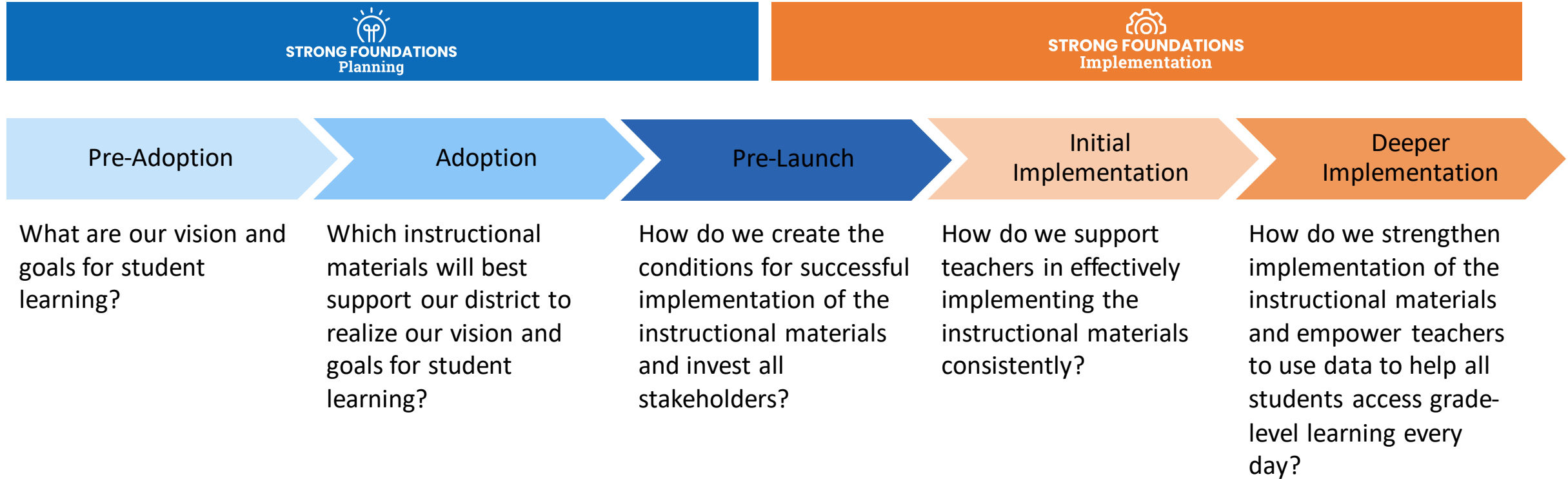
Helps build the case for “why” instructional adjustments are needed.

## Implementation Supports

Summer and **year-long job-embedded training** and technical assistance for district and school administrators, coaches and teachers aligned to state-owned evidence-based math & **literacy high quality instructional materials**.

Subsidizes instructional coaches to help districts deliver quality instruction with HQIM.

# Supports needed across multiple stages

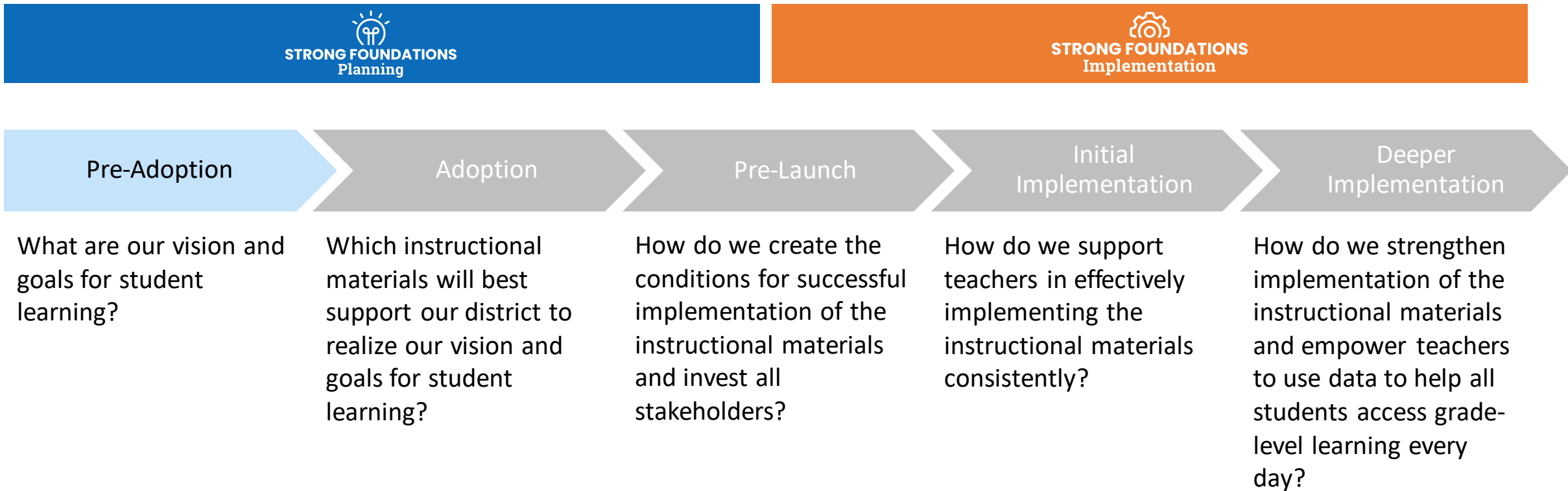




**STRONG FOUNDATIONS**  
**Planning**



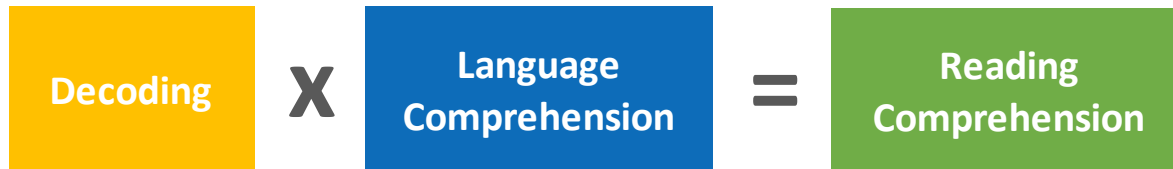
# Strong Foundations Planning begins with setting the vision and standard for student learning based in research



# Establishing a vision of student learning in reading and math

Strong instruction of the TEKS based on cognitive science and best practices from around the state

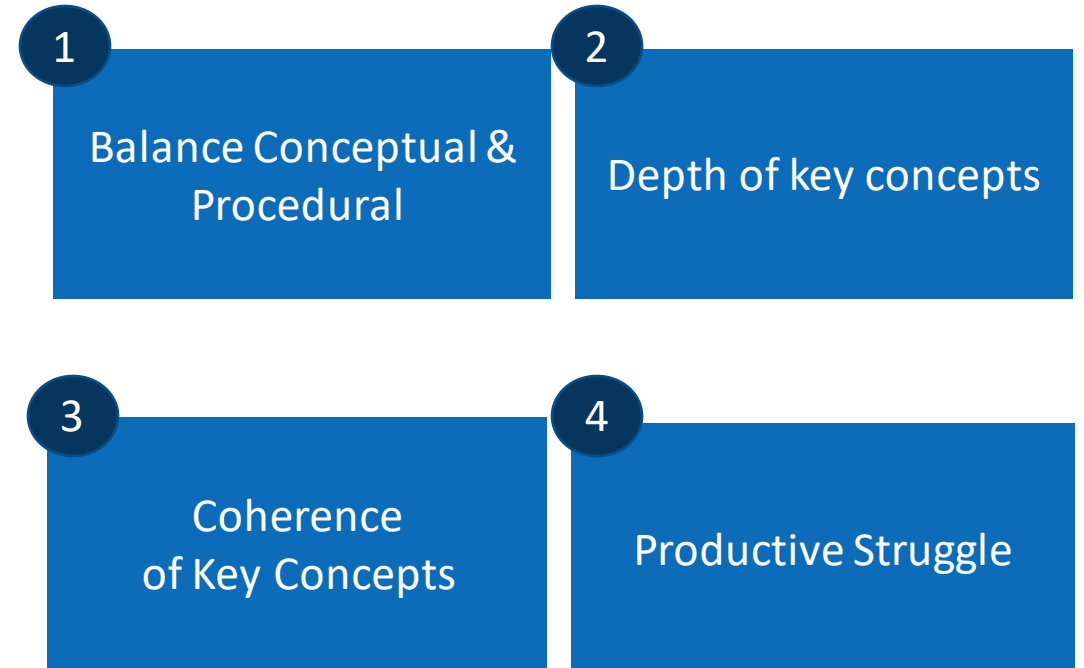
## Reading



- Explicit systematic direct instruction in phonics

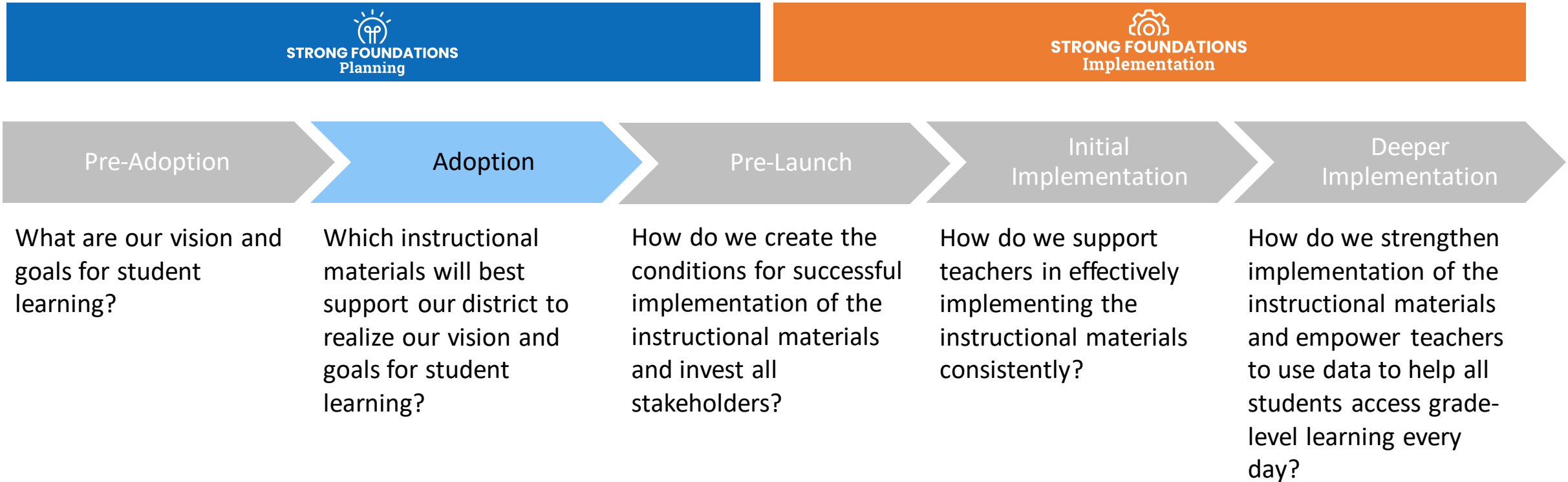
- Vocabulary complexity
- Knowledge coherence (not skill coherence)
- Writing (in response to reading)

## Math





# The next step in planning is selecting instructional materials aligned to the research-based district framework



# Adoption process support

Included in:

enVision MATH 2.0 Texas  
Math | 2020  
Published by: Savvas Learning

*Rubric for Math Kindergarten - Grade 8*

|  | At Least 80% Score Recommended |                        |                   |                        |                              |                   |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
|  | 1. TEKS & ELPS                 | 2. Concept Development | 3. Process Skills | 4. Progress Monitoring | 5. Supports for All Learners | 6. Implementation |
| enVision MATH 2.0 Texas Kindergarten   Math   2015<br>Published by: Savvas Learning<br>Series includes: Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5. See Full Series | Student TEKS<br>100%           | 88%                    | 93%               | 83%                    | 100%                         | 100%              |
| enVision MATH 2.0 Texas Grade 1   Math   2015<br>Published by: Savvas Learning<br>Series includes: Kindergarten, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5. See Full Series | Student TEKS<br>100%           | 88%                    | 93%               | 83%                    | 100%                         | 100%              |

| Selected Titles   | <a href="#">STEMscopes Texas Math Kindergarten</a>  | <a href="#">enVision MATH 2.0 Texas Kindergarten</a>  | <a href="#">Texas GO Math! Kindergarten</a>   |
|---|---|---|---|
| For details about how a score is given, select a title.   |   |   |   |
| <b>Criteria for Quality</b>   |   |   |   |
| <b>2. Concept Development and Rigor</b><br>Instruction is provided in conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application.                          | <b>100%</b><br>(32 out of 32 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  | <b>88%</b><br>(28 out of 32 points)<br>80.00% Recommended   | <b>75%</b><br>(24 out of 32 points)<br>80.00% Recommended   |
| <b>3. Integration of Process Skills</b><br>Instruction is provided in problem solving, tool selection, effective communication, use of mathematical language. | <b>100%</b><br>(28 out of 28 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  | <b>93%</b><br>(26 out of 28 points)<br>80.00% Recommended   | <b>100%</b><br>(28 out of 28 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  |
| <b>4. Progress Monitoring</b><br>Frequent strategic opportunities to monitor and respond to student progress are provided.                                    | <b>100%</b><br>(6 out of 6 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  | <b>83%</b><br>(5 out of 6 points)<br>80.00% Recommended   | <b>83%</b><br>(5 out of 6 points)<br>80.00% Recommended   |
| <b>5. Supports for All Learners</b><br>Guidance and support for diverse learners are provided.  | <b>83%</b><br>(5 out of 6 points)<br>80.00% Recommended   | <b>100%</b><br>(6 out of 6 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  | <b>100%</b><br>(6 out of 6 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  |
| <b>6. Implementation</b><br>Easy-to-use guidance for implementation is provided.  | <b>100%</b><br>(10 out of 10 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  | <b>100%</b><br>(10 out of 10 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  | <b>70%</b><br>(7 out of 10 points)<br>80.00% Recommended  |
| <b>7. Additional Information</b>  |   |   |   |
| <i>Technical Specifications</i>   | <b>Format:</b> Mobile App, Online, Print<br><b>Platform:</b> Chromebook, iPad, Mac, Other mobile devices, Windows<br><b>Standards Compliance:</b> CC (common cartridge), LTI, OneRoster, QTI, TCC (thin common cartridge)<br><a href="#">Read the Full Report for Technical Specs</a> | <b>Format:</b> Online, Print<br><b>Platform:</b> Chromebook, iPad, Mac, Other mobile devices, Windows<br><b>Standards Compliance:</b> CASE, LTI, OneRoster, TCC (thin common cartridge)<br><a href="#">Read the Full Report for Technical Specs</a> | <b>Format:</b> eBook, Online, Print<br><b>Platform:</b> Chromebook, iPad, Mac, Other mobile devices, Windows<br><b>Standards Compliance:</b> LTI, OneRoster, QTI, TCC (thin common cartridge)<br><a href="#">Read the Full Report for Technical Specs</a> |

Texas Resource Review







# Once aligned instructional materials are selected districts prepare for the implementation by setting

  
**STRONG FOUNDATIONS**  
Planning

  
**STRONG FOUNDATIONS**  
Implementation

Pre-Adoption

Adoption

Pre-Launch

Initial  
Implementation

Deeper  
Implementation

What are our vision and goals for student learning?

Which instructional materials will best support our district to realize our vision and goals for student learning?

How do we create the conditions for successful implementation of the instructional materials and invest all stakeholders?

How do we support teachers in effectively implementing the instructional materials consistently?

How do we strengthen implementation of the instructional materials and empower teachers to use data to help all students access grade-level learning every day?

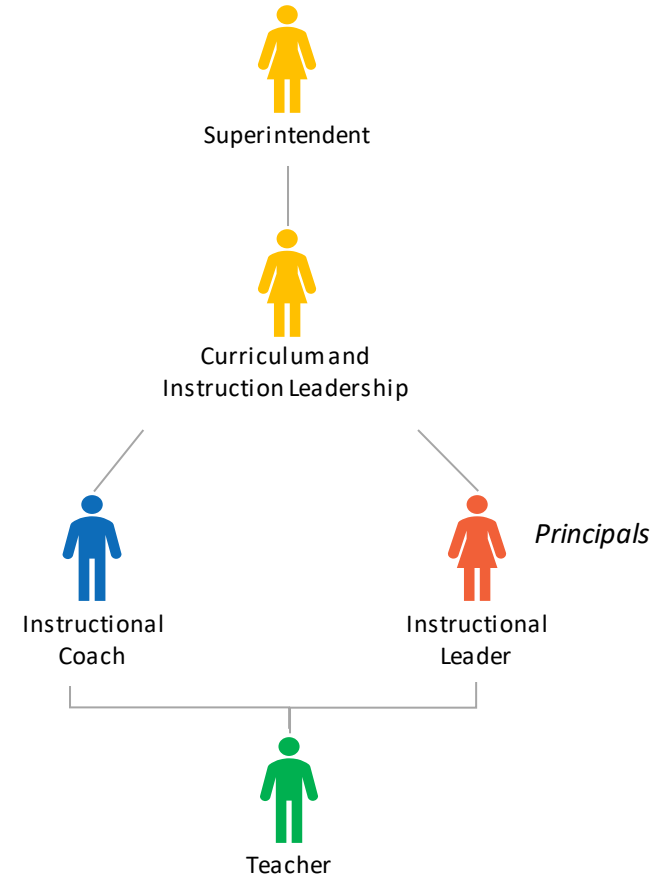


# Setting pre-launch organizational conditions for successful content instruction



*District-level leadership of curriculum and instruction, including special populations leadership for inclusion supports (e.g., directors of humanities, STEM, special education, bilingual education)*

*District- or campus-level staff providing curricular supports directly to teachers (e.g., instructional coaches, instructional specialists, assistant principals, teacher leaders)*





**STRONG FOUNDATIONS**  
**Implementation**

# Supports needed across multiple stages



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# Strong Foundations Implementation Supports



Readiness and  
Progress Assessments



Dedicated Advisors



1:1 Consultation –  
Regularly and On Demand



Strategic Planning  
Tools and Timelines



High-Quality  
Professional Learning



Cohort Placement



Print Materials\*

# Mount Calm ISD Strong Foundations Journey



**Superintendent**  
Christy Bailey



**HQIM Team Lead (ESC Reg. 12)**  
Courtney Ingram

**Demographics:** rural 1A school located about 20 miles northeast of Waco; Economically disadvantaged – 77%

**LASO grants:** Strong Foundations Planning (SFP), Strong Foundations Implementation (SFI), Blended Learning Grant (BLG), Technology Lending Grant (TLG), Additional Days School Year (ADSY)

# Strong Foundations Timeline

| School Year 2021-22 |           |             | School Year 2022-23 |           |             | School Year 2023-24 |           |             |             |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Summer 2021         | Fall 2021 | Spring 2022 | Summer 2022         | Fall 2022 | Spring 2023 | Summer 2023         | Fall 2023 | Spring 2024 | Summer 2024 |
|                     |           |             |                     |           |             |                     |           |             |             |

## December 2022

Mount Calm ISD applied to LASO Cycle 1 and selected supports for

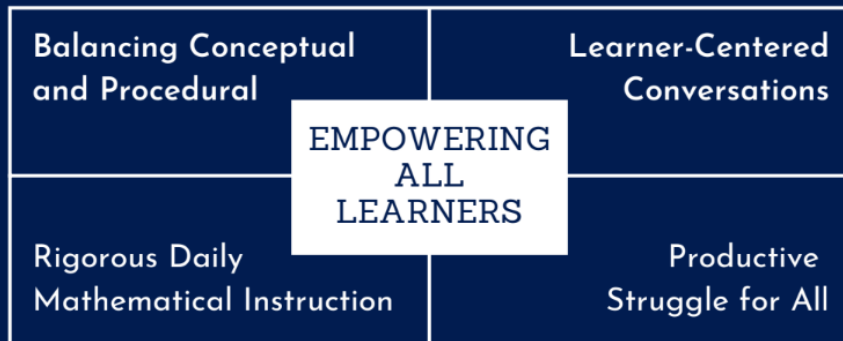
- Strong Foundations Planning
- Strong Foundations Implementation
- Technology Lending Grant
- Blended Learning Grant

## August 2023

Began Implementation of K-5 RLA and K-5 Math materials

# Mount Calm's math instructional framework and needs

In Mount Calm ISD, we believe that the following four pillars are essential to mathematics instruction:



## Strong Foundations Needs

- Learning loss, increased gaps in learning vertically and major gaps within grade levels
- Teacher turnover had increased
- Underdeveloped PLC process
- Vetting process for choosing vertically aligned HQIM for Tier I instruction and Tier 2, 3 intervention





# Adapted systems to support teachers & students

## Curriculum:

### • Instruction:

- Teachers and administrators gained knowledge of pedagogy and RBIS
- Teachers have a common language for the instructional materials, vertically
- New teachers have a support system and process for learning to use our chosen instructional materials

## Master Schedule:

- Aligned master schedule to HQIM instructional minutes
- Built in time for PLCs
- Built in accelerated and intervention time for students

## Training & Coaching:

- Built coaching time into schedule, without having teachers stay for additional meeting time, which helped build programmatic buy in with teachers

# Strong Foundations resources are available!

## What are Strong Foundation Grants?

Local education agencies (LEAs) can apply for two types of Strong Foundations grants. The **Planning grant** helps LEAs adopt or prepare to use high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). The **Implementation grant** supports LEAs in effectively implementing HQIM.

- **Strong Foundations Planning** provides LEAs support to develop a strong instructional framework in math or literacy, provides optional adoption supports in selecting new HQIM, if LEAs choose to make a materials switch, and training to support creating systems to effectively manage instruction at the district level.
- **Strong Foundations Implementation** provides in-kind support for pre-implementation planning and content- and product-specific professional learning for teachers, coaches, and administrators on effectively implementing HQIM.

The Strong Foundations Grant Program (Texas Education Code, 29.0881) was established through House Bill 4545, 87th Texas Legislature, 2021, and offers K-5 Math & Literacy comprehensive Tier 1 instructional supports, including curriculum, instructional leadership, and planning supports.



### Strong Foundations Planning

Framework assistance for either adopting a new HQIM or maintaining current materials.



### Strong Foundations Implementation

Professional learning and implementation supports for teachers, coaches, and administrators implementing HQIM.

TEA has a [Strong Foundations resource hub](#) with more information on upcoming grant cycles, different models of implementation, and examples from Texas districts.



# LEAs interested in Strong Foundations can access them via the LASO grant



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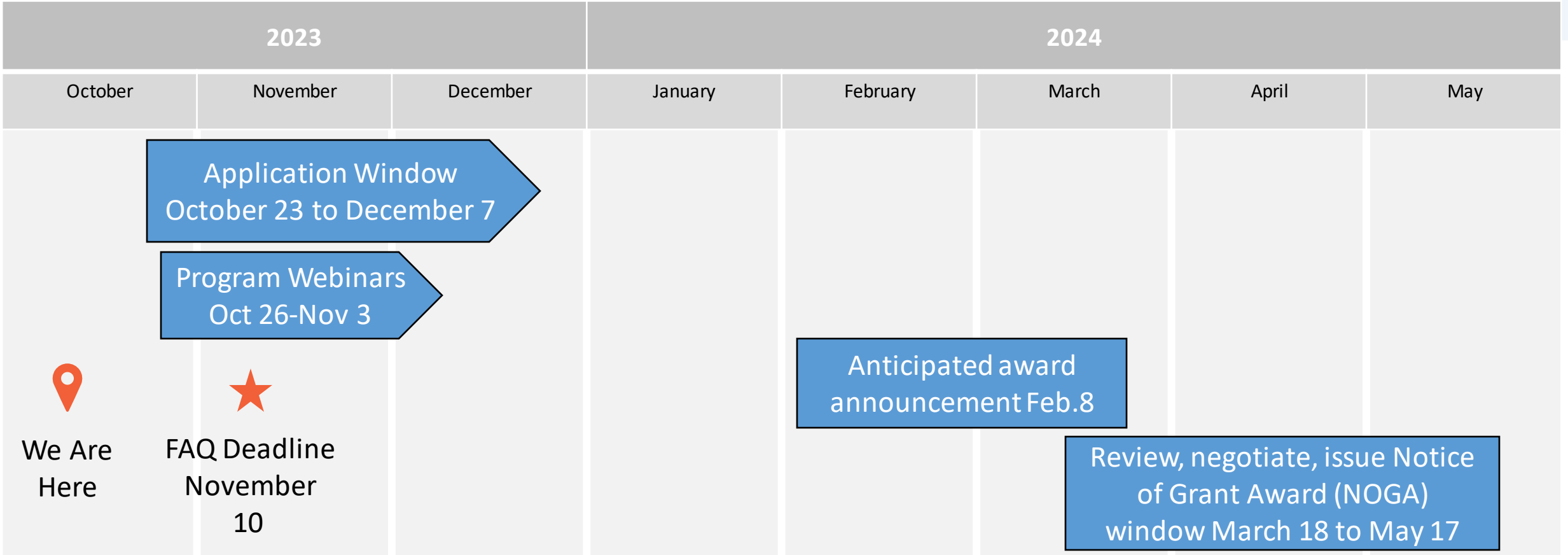
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