TEA
Texas Education Agency®

2023-2025 Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP) Grant
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, July 7, 2023

NOGA ID

Authorizing legislation	**General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 86, 87th Texas Legislature**

This LOI application must be submitted via email to **competitivegrants@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, July 7, 2023**.

Application stamp-in date and time

Grant period from	**August 3, 2023 to April 30, 2025**

Pre-award costs are **not** permitted for this grant.

Required Attachments

1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)

Amendment Number

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

Applicant Information

Organization	North East ISD	CDN	015910	Campus		ESC	20	UEI #	76923283

Address	8961 Tesoro Drive	City	San Antonio	ZIP	78217	Vendor ID	1746015301

Primary Contact	Dan Villarreal	Email	dvilla2@neisd.net	Phone	210-407-0494

Secondary Contact	Justin Missildine	Email	jmissi@neisd.net	Phone	210-407-0300

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	Dan Villarreal	Title	Chief Financial Officer

Email	dvilla2@neisd.net	Phone	210-407-0494

Signature	*[signature]*	Date	6/22/2023

Shared Services Arrangements

X Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are **not** permitted for this grant.

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 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.

☒ 2. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2023-2025 Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP) Grant Program Guidelines.

☒ 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2023-2025 Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP) Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.

☒ 4. The applicant will include AP CSP as part of the course catalog and will go through the necessary district policies to obtain school board approval.

☒ 5. The applicant will identify, recruit, and onboard qualified teachers to receive professional development training and become certified to teach an AP CSP course. Selected teacher(s) must meet minimum qualifications and be committed to continue teaching the course for at least two years after training.

☒ 6. The applicant will identify and select a professional development provider. Determine the modality, scope, and sequence of training. Create and sign any necessary agreements, memorandums of understanding, or contracts.

☒ 7. The applicant will identify and select the appropriate course curriculum.

☒ 8. The applicant will purchase any necessary technology and materials for course offering.

☒ 9. The applicant will plan for AP CSP to be in the master schedule, maximizing the number of students who will take the course and will decide which program(s) of study this course will support or expand.

☒ 10. The applicant will promote the AP CSP course offering to all students. Strategically and equitably advise and place students in the course, especially for those who take it as part of any program of study.

☒ 11. The applicant will identify additional opportunities for students who take the AP CSP course, such as work- based learning opportunities, field trips, etc., to encourage students to continue coursework in computer science

☒ 12. The applicant will offer the AP CSP course to students.

☒ 13. The applicant will provide ongoing training and support for the AP CSP teacher(s).

☒ 14. The applicant will provide support necessary to ensure students successfully pass the course.

☒ 15. The applicant will provide a way for students to take the AP CSP exam after course completion for free or at a reduced cost.

☒ 16. The applicant will ,make a sustainability plan for the course, ensuring that the course can continue to be offered after grant funds run out. This includes planning for the 2024-2025 school year.

Summary of Program

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Include the overall mission and specific needs of the organization. Describe how the program will address the mission and needs.

The grant will help the district support our seven computer educators and provide them professional development . Additionally, the grant will provide them on-going mentorship through UTeach CS, cover exam fees for students eligible to take the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) exam districtwide, and promote computer science courses to marginalized student populations.

Additionally, the seven educators will be invited to sit through professional development offered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) education specialist assigned to the district's new Space and Engineering Technologies Academy (SETA) for the next three years through the Space Act Agreement jointly signed by NASA and the district.

The North East Independent School District's mission is to challenge and encourage each child to achieve and demonstrate academic excellence, technical skills and responsible citizenship. Grant funds for this advanced computer science course will help the district deliver on its mission to create a student-centered learning environment that engages students in authentic, real-world learning experiences.

The student curriculum and professional development for educators purchased by grant funds will enhance this mission and provide students essential knowledge and skills that will support the increase of academic achievment rates, as well as enhance innovative opportunities for students to engage in learning beyond the classroom.

TEA Program Requirements

1. Identify and describe the explicit need for grant funds to support an AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) course. How will this grant build capacity for the LEA? How will the LEA prioritize marginalized students in receiving access to the AP CSP course offering?

The district offers a sequence of computer science courses, however, there is a need for additional certified AP CSP educators to meet the demand for qualified workers in the field of computer science. The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports 418,500 jobs openings annually in this field with a median annual wage of $97,420. While many may see North East ISD as a high-end bedroom community, PEIMS reveals a different story. More than half of North East ISD's 59,007 students are minority, economically disadvantaged and at-risk. According to PEIMS, 61.5% are Hispanic, 51.3% are at-risk, 52.2% are economically disadvantaged and 41.7% qualify for free lunch. This grant will help prepare students take advantage of high-paying, in-demand jobs in the city in which they live. San Antonio has the second largest cybersecurity presence outside of Washington D.C. Computer science is the backbone of cybersecurity. We seek to prepare educators to in turn train students to fill computer science openings in the city. North East ISD will expand capacity by increasing the number of educators qualified to teach computer science and AP CSP. Our marketing of computer science courses and the benefits of the AP CSP exam to students starts in the Spring of a student's 8th grade as they prepare to register for Freshman high school courses.

TEA Program Requirements Cont'd

2. Describe how the LEA will select teachers to receive professional development to teach an AP CSP course. How will the LEA select teachers and ensure teacher commitment? How will the LEA ensure teachers have all the tools necessary to teach the AP CSP course successfully? Include how many teachers the LEA needs to provide the AP CSP course.

> The district currently offers a computer science sequence at its seven high schools, two of which are homes to STEM-related magnet programs. Each of the high schools and STEM programs have computer science teachers qualified to teach AP CSP Our method of selecting teachers to receive professional development funded by this grant includes outreach at each high school campus through department heads to current computer science educators, advanced math and STEM teachers. Additionally, the selected teachers will be invited to attend professional development offered by the district's in-house NASA educational specialist at SETA for exposure to recently developed insights into computer science and provide a stipend. The grant will fund the professional development as well as purchase required subscription/licenses for the development. This district is committed to delivering industry-standard curriculum with up-to-date technology and software. We will determine what must be updated or purchased - based on insight from the professional development provider and the NASA educational specialist - and ensure the computer science teachers have what they need.

3. The LEA will identify and select a professional development provider. Describe the nature of the LEA/provider relationship. Which vendor will be the professional development provider for the LEA? When and how will this training occur?

> The district will register with the UTeach Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. This is a teacher preparation program that seeks to increase the number of qualified science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers. This district and UTeach have had an on-going relationship over the years. The training will take place Summer 2024.
>
> This is a 35-hour professional development program in which teachers master foundational course content and Advanced Placement requirements while practicing the collaborative, project-based instructional strategies necessary to teach courses. The schedule calls for eight hours of professional development over four days.
>
> An additional five-and-a-half hours of development will be delivered through an AP Online Workshop. A 12-month UTeach Computer Science license will be purchased for seven educators as well. Alongside this professional development, participating educators will attend additional professional development offered by the NASA educational specialist assigned to North East ISD's SETA magnet program for the three years of the Space Agreement with the district.

TEA Program Requirements Cont'd

4. Describe the course curriculum for classroom instruction. List any curriculum, technology, and/or equipment required for the course.

The district's Programming and Software Development Program of study includes creating, modifying and testing codes, forms and script that allow applications to run, as well as explores occupations associated with researching, designing, developing and testing operating systems-level software, compilers and network distribution software. The following is the course sequence offered at five of our seven high schools - as you will see, the remaining two high schools offer enhancements:

Principles of Computer Science (Year 1),
Computer Science 1 Honors (Year 2),
AP Computer Science A and Computer Science II (Year 3) and
In Year 4 - AP Computer Science Principles, Career Preparation I (10 hours work week, Career Prepration I (15 hour work week)

The STEM-related magnet programs at two of the seven high schools offer the same sequence listed above except for two enhancements: passing the AP CPS exam leads to an entry-level Python Programmer certification and dual credit with a participating community college. The technology used for the courses include: high end computer labs funded by the Career and Technology Education Department. Most of the teachers use Code.org, Code HS and other free platforms applicable to the curriculum.

5. Describe how students will be supported in selecting and succeeding in the AP CSP course. How does this course support the student's program of study or graduation plan? The LEA must include a plan for ensuring that students take and pass the AP CSP exam.

Computer science options at the district's seven high schools taught by certified computer science teachers provide students the opportunity to develop technical and academic skills. AP courses are frequently audited by the campus administration to ensure that it meets the curriculum and resource requirements. The AP Computer Science teachers have worked diligently over the past school year to create a year-at-a-glance document that outlines the course content, objectives and how they relate to the state required standards. The created document provides guidance and a sequence of content which allows the teachers to track student progress, compare data and differentiate instructions as needed.

Teachers will monitor success at three, six and nine weeks. Teachers will meet with students who fall below a 75 average and determine the best path to improve grades. Tutoring sessions will be offered in which all students - not just those who need improvement - will gather for tutoring so that achieving students will both receive reinforcement and support those students who need help. To ensure that students are successful in the course and the AP CSP exam, teachers will schedule periodical review sessions and practice exams. The teach will review the outcomes of the practice exam with students.

This grant will help cover the student's cost of registering for the exam. Based on the most recent number of AP CSP exams taken by North East ISD students, we are budgeting for 373 students to take the exam Spring 2025.

TEA Program Requirements Cont'd

6. Describe the course evaluation procedure and outline student success measures. Describe how the LEA will ensure successful grant administration by measuring the following metrics: (a) Increase in the number of CTE completers taking an AP course; (b) Increase in participation and/or performance of students taking and/or passing the AP CSP exam; and (c) Increase in number of special populations and non-traditional students enrolled in an AP CSP course.

The grant seeks to fund three areas: professional development for educators leading to certification to teach AP CSP, cover the cost of student exam fees and increase the number of marginalized students into computer science. The district will note the success rate of the educators recruited to participate in professional development, who will then be assigned to campuses with low student success rates. The high school class of 2024/2025 will be the cohort under this grant. The district will note the increase of CTE students taking and successfully completing an AP course. Additionally, the district will record the number of students taking computer science courses as well as AP Computer Science Principles at the beginning of the school year. At the end of the school year, the district will determine the success rate of this cohort. Additionally, the number of students taking the AP CSP exam will be noted as well as the number of students successfully passing the exam. Data will be compiled to determine the success in recruiting marginalized students to high school computer science courses as well as determining this group's success rate; with particular attention to the success rate marginalized students who take the AP CSP exam.

7. Describe how the LEA plans to implement and sustain the AP CSP course at each campus and how the course will continued to be offered beyond the grant.

North East ISD has integrated AP CSP into its course sequence, This course and related computer science courses are in course catalogs and consistently offered at each of the district's seven high schools. The training and addition of teachers through this grant to teach AP CSP at schools with low passing rates could potentially create the opportunity to create additional classes, which in turn will add capacity to our current offerings. Local and various other funds will be leveraged to continue this grant program once grant funds expire.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

The following goals/objectives are based on an August 3rd, 2023 grant award date. Computer science programs, along with the AP CSP are already offered, therefore, board approval is not necessary. This schedule addresses the recruiting of educators, delivery of professional development, and recruitment of students:

August 2023:
Register seven educators to participate in the UTeach Professional Development
Promote among eligible computer science, CTE and advanced math educators the opportunity to participate in professional development.

September 2023:
Recruit and onboard seven educators to participate in the UTeach Professional Development
Seek insight/advice from district's in-house NASA educational specialist on ideal flourishes to the training

October 2023:
Conduct equipment/technology audit to ensure educators have what they need to conduct professional development
Conduct audit to ensure educators have equipment/technology to deliver curriculum to students

November 2023 :
With input from the selected seven educators, determine promotional material to recruit marginalized students
Determine which teachers will be assigned to which schools;

January 2024: Promote course offerings to students during course selection for Fall 2024

June 2024: The seven educators participate UTeach program to launch AP resources in classes starting August 2024

August 2024: CTE maintain communications with the second educators and tracks data of students enrolled in computer science programs.

Budget Narrative

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.

Grant funds will help expand and enhance current efforts to recruit and prepare computer science educators through the UTeach Professional Development program. Additionally, funds will pay for a year license related to professional development, an AP Online Workshop as well as help students pay the AP CSP exam fees.

The attached budget includes the cost of using UTeach as the professional development provider as well as the AP Online Workshop for seven educators.

Related to the professional development is substitute pay to cover the absences of the seven educators when they are out of the classroom for collaboration sessions as well as work on AP content, AP testing strategies and review AP student data. We expect absences to be two days in the Fall and two days in the Spring.

The grant budget also includes summer supplement pay for AP CSP teachers who will work off contract during the summer to participate in professional development. We have budgeted for four days of development for seven teachers.

Portions of the grant funds will be used to help pay for AP exam fees. Based on the number of students who took the AP CSP exam last year, we are budgeting for 373 students to take the exam next year.

Also, the budget reflects materials to promote computer science courses to students.

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