



2024-2025 Stronger Connections Grant

Competitive Grant Application: Due 11:59 p.m. CT, July 18, 2023

NOGA ID

Application stamp-in date and time

TEA will only accept grant application documents by **email**, including competitive grant applications and amendments. Submit grant applications and amendments as follows:

Competitive grant applications and amendments to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov.

The application **MUST** bear the signature of a person authorized to bind the applicant to a contractual agreement

Authorizing legislation:

Grant period: **Pre-award costs:**

Required attachments:

Amendment Number

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

1. Applicant Information

Name of organization

Campus name CDN Vendor ID ESC UEI

Address City ZIP Phone

Primary Contact Email Phone

Secondary Contact Email Phone

2. 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 grant application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the grant application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

- Grant application, guidelines, and instructions
- Debarment and Suspension Certification
- General Provisions and Assurances
- Lobbying Certification
- Application-Specific Provisions and Assurances
- ESSA Provisions and Assurances requirements

Authorized Official Name Title Email

Phone Signature Date

Grant Writer Name Signature Date

Grant writer is an employee of the applicant organization. Grant writer is **not** an employee of the applicant organization.

For TEA Use Only:
Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

3. Shared Services Arrangements

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

4. Identify/Address Needs

List up to three quantifiable needs, as identified in your needs assessment, that these program funds will address. Describe your plan for addressing each need.

Quantifiable Need	Plan for Addressing Need
Increase emotional/social/relational school health and safety strategies as evidences by # of evidence-based programs implemented, increased # of health/safety personnel ratios	Hire mental health professional (school counselor/social worker) for every campus; hire district Student Support Coach; implement professional development plan targeted toward mental health/behavioral interventions
Decrease of exclusionary discipline and increased attendance	Implement professional development for all staff targeted toward mental health/behavioral interventions
Increase the implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports or Positive Behavioral Interventions	Increase Tier II and Tier III supports and create sustainable systems to support student behavior needs

5. SMART Goal

Describe the summative SMART goal you have identified for this program (a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely), either related to student outcome or consistent with the purpose of the grant.

With the use of the health professional's strategies, the school will see a decrease in discipline referrals and threat assessments by 15% from the previous year's data.

6. Measurable Progress

Identify the benchmarks that you will use at the end of the first three grant quarters to measure progress toward meeting the process and implementation goals defined for the grant.

First-Quarter Benchmark

Evaluate number of suspension (in-school and out-of-school) assigned in Q1
 Evaluate number of threat assessments completed in Q1
 Staff surveys after professional development sessions
 Student behavior plans

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

6. Measurable Progress (Cont.)**Second-Quarter Benchmark**

Evaluate number of suspension (in school and out-of-school) assigned in Q1 and Q2
 Evaluate number of threat assessments in Q1 and 2
 Staff surveys of professional development sessions
 Parent feedback surveys after parent events
 Student behavior plans

Third-Quarter Benchmark

Evaluate total number of suspensions (in school and out-of-school)
 Evaluate total number of threat assessments
 Staff surveys of professional development sessions
 Observation feedback based on staff PD
 Parent feedback after parent events
 Student behavior plans

7. Project Evaluation and Modification

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks or summative SMART goals do not show progress, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

If student exclusionary discipline or threat assessments are not decreasing from the previous year, we will fist have our steering committee look at the data to determine why there has not been a change (significant incident, fewer students/repeat incidents per student). We will use data to guide the conversations and look at discipline, threat assessments, enrollment, time of day, etc. Once the team has analyzed the data, they will make reccommendations of any potential changes. Changes may include: additional training, coaching and support, schedule changes, shifts in caseload, or any other changes the team feels are reasonable and will best-support the goals of the students and the school.

The ulitimate goal is to create systems that are perpetuating and will be sustainable over time.

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

8. Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee 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 grant 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 Statutory Requirements, TEA Program Requirements, and Performance Measures, as noted in the 2024–2025 Stronger Connections Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide the Texas Education Agency, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the grant program.
4. The applicant will formally establish a Student Support Program at three district campuses (one elementary, one intermediate/middle school, one high school) to address school climate and establish a student support team structure aligned to the training and support provided by the Texas Center for Student Supports and the regional ESC. If the applicant has few than three campuses or does not have three of the listed types of campuses, the applicant will establish the Student Support Program and the student support team structure at all campuses, up to three, served in the district.
5. The applicant will allocate 6% of awarded funds for contracted services for technical assistance provided by the regional ESC. Complete the transaction with the regional ESC in a timely manner. Time is of the essence in completing the transaction to ensure that the program is implemented efficiently and effectively to successfully achieve the goals of the program.
6. The applicant will allocate 10% of awarded funds for professional and contracted services with a partner approved by the Texas Center for Student Support and TEA. Complete the transaction with the regional ESC in a timely manner. Time is of the essence in completing the transaction to ensure that the program is implemented efficiently and effectively to successfully achieve the goals of the program.
7. The applicant will use the family engagement playbook developed by the Texas Center for Student Supports to partner and build support with parents and families prior to a student support team assessment, and during the student support implementation process to facilitate a student support partnership with families.
8. The applicant will establish a parent, student, and staff advisory committee to provide input on the establishment of the Student Support Program.
9. The applicant will engage in Student Support Program planning activities from the beginning of the grant program through implementation at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.
10. The applicant will establish and implement at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, the Student Support Program aligned to the content and training provided by the Texas Center for Student Supports.
11. The applicant will incorporate a case management system into the student support team structure aligned to the training and support provided by the Texas Center for Student Supports.
12. The applicant will align the student support team structure with behavioral threat assessment team operation and outcomes to ensure that students are well supported and that the effectiveness of interventions are monitored.
13. The applicant will implement the data collection and reporting system developed by the Texas Center for Student Supports to gather and analyze data to monitor efficacy of the implementation of the Student Support Program, including student support team structure, quality of support leading to positive outcomes, and data related to increases in desired outcomes (e.g. increase in student support team referrals for nonacademic needs, increase in effective supports received by students, reduction in disciplinary incidents, reduction in bullying and harassment, increase in referrals for mental health services, reduction in removals from class, etc.).
14. The applicant will provide timely response to requests from TEA for information and data regarding program development, implementation, and performance and evaluation measures.

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

9. Statutory/ TEA Program Requirements

1. Describe how the LEA will identify the campuses that will participate in the establishment of the Student Support Program described in the program description? Include the criteria or considerations that will influence the determination by the LEA.

Our LEA is comprised of only 4 campuses. All 4 campuses will benefit by adding a mental health professional. The Student Support Coach will be available across the district if needed, but will concentrate his/her work at the two campuses located within the 410 loop as they have the most need. This was determined based on previous year discipline data as well as census data related to access to health care, specifically mental health care. Professional development will be offered to all staff across the district.

Parent and community activities will be offered at all 4 campuses, with first scheduling at the schools within the 410 loop whenever possible. This is intentional to show that the families who often feel like an afterthought are truly our priority.

2. Describe how the LEA will ensure that campus leaders and staff are committed to the success of the Student Support Program.

Our campus leaders have been requesting the additional staffing for health professionals. They meet regularly as a leadership team and will collaborate on shared initiatives to ensure the success of the Student Support Program. The funding from this grant to add the professionals they have been seeking and also grow the competency of their staff through our professional development initiatives is in direct response to their requests.

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

5. Describe how each of the campuses will be supported by the grant program, if awarded, currently conduct behavioral threat assessments and how the campus will incorporate current systems into the student support team structure.

Each campus in our district will benefit from the grant program, if awarded, by adding needed staff and professional development. Additionally, we will be able to collaborate across campuses more effectively through the Student Support Coach working at all campuses with a predictable, yet flexible, schedule. We have a threat assessment tool currently in use, but could provide more timely intervention if a mental health professional is assigned to each campus. We also would be better prepared to respond in a proactive manner and prevent the need for threat assessments as often as possible.

Currently, our student support teams are comprised of school administrators, classroom teachers, academic interventionists, and special education teachers. Adding the mental health professional and student support coach would ensure that the team has both a mental health focus and an academic focus and can support with behavioral interventions in addition to the academic interventions often suggested.

6. Describe how the LEA currently identifies student support needs and how it identifies and establishes partnerships with external mental health and behavioral health providers to meet student needs.

Students are currently identified for students support needs based on teacher referrals, parent referrals (although rare) and self-referral. If needed, we refer to external mental health partners. Adding mental health professionals to our staff will provide a safety net to students and families who may feel a stigma from seeking out mental health care in the community. Additionally, the student support coach will be able to connect students and families to other community resources as needed.

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

3. Describe how the LEA will engage parents and families to solicit support for the program.

Legacy Traditional Schools hosts several parent engagement events annually and solicits feedback from their parents through in-person meetings as well as surveys. We will continue to engage our parents and families to gain their feedback and support for this program in similar ways. Given that many parents cannot always attend in-person events, we reach parents where they are by utilizing surveys at other electronic communication or newsletters to share information and seek input. If there is enough interest from parents, we can form a steering committee

4. Describe how the LEA will ensure that there is adequate staff to support the establishment and implementation of the Student Support Program.

Increasing access to mental health professionals by ensuring that we have a counselor or social worker on every campus will allow our students and staff to be more successful. We will help break down barriers to mental health support by providing referrals and support within our school system and removing the stigma associated with accessing counseling services. We will also hire a Student Support Coach to support our campuses, mainly the campuses within the 410 loop in San Antonio. The Student Support Coach is an interventionist who is tasked with making positive changes to student behavior and staff capacity in order to improve attendance and academic growth and achievement. This professional is responsible for systemic behavior intervention, teacher professional development, parent communication, 504 implementation, and student attendance, all within an MTSS framework. The combination of these positions will strengthen our Tier I supports for students as well as provide support and structure for our Tier II and Tier III efforts when addressing students' social and emotional needs.

We will be requesting funding to hire 4 counselors/social workers and 1 Student Support Coach to support this work with adequate staffing.

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

7. Describe how the LEA currently partners with the regional ESC to support improvement in student mental health, behavioral and emotional health, physical health and wellbeing, and improving academic outcomes for students.

We have a good relationship with Region 20 and partner with them to increase student outcomes through work with our school improvement process and other consulting as needed. We secured a partnership with Region 20 to support student mental health initiatives and staff support when pursuing a Project AWARE grant.

8. Describe how the LEA will use this grant program to supplement current work to improve services and supports for the mental health, behavioral and emotional health, and physical health and wellness of students.

In addition to hiring professional staff, we will invest in professional development to increase the capacity of staff to respond in a way that is proactive, restorative, and respectful. This training will focus on restorative practices, school-wide approaches, and youth mental-health first aid. We will use a train-the-trainers model to ensure that the program is sustainable after the end of the grant period.

In addition to increasing the mental health professionals on staff and providing additional professional development opportunities, we will invest in social emotional learning materials and curriculum for our school sites. This will be used to strengthen our current Tier I systems and promote desired behaviors as well as teach healthy coping skills and emotional regulation to our students. We will use the funds to host family events, such as Ready Rosy, to help decrease the stigma surrounding mental health in the community and equip families with tools to support healthy social emotional habits at home as well as at school.

9. Enter the LEA Total Enrollment:

975

10. Enter the Regional Educational Service Center that serves the LEA:

20

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

10. 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 grant.

- The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this grant.
- 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"/>

11. PNP Equitable Services

Are any private nonprofit schools located within the applicant's boundaries?

- Yes
- No

If you answered "No" to the preceding question, stop here. You have completed the section. Proceed to the next page.

Are any private nonprofit schools participating in the grant?

- Yes
- No

If you answered "No" to the preceding question, stop here. You have completed the section. Proceed to the next page.

Assurances

- The LEA assures that it discussed all consultation requirements as listed in Section 1117(b)(1) and/or Section 8501(c)(1), as applicable, with all eligible private nonprofit schools located within the LEA's boundaries.
- The LEA assures the appropriate Affirmations of Consultation will be provided to TEA's PNP Ombudsman in the manner and time requested.

Equitable Services Calculation

1. LEA's student enrollment	<input type="text"/>
2. Enrollment of all participating private schools	<input type="text"/>
3. Total enrollment of LEA and all participating PNPs (line 1 plus line 2)	<input type="text"/>
4. Total current-year grant allocation	<input type="text"/>
5. LEA reservation for direct administrative costs, not to exceed the grant's defined limit	<input type="text"/>
6. Total LEA amount for provision of ESSA PNP equitable services (line 4 minus line 5)	<input type="text"/>
7. Per-pupil LEA amount for provision of ESSA PNP equitable services (line 6 divided by line 3)	<input type="text"/>
LEA's total required ESSA PNP equitable services reservation (line 7 times line 2)	<input type="text"/>

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

12. Request for Grant Funds

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA.

Payroll Costs

1.	Salary and benefits for school counselor at each campus for 2 years (\$63,000/year with 15% b	\$579,000.00
2.	Salary and benefits for student support coach for 2 years (\$70,725/year with 15% benefits)	\$162,667.50
3.		
4.		
5.		

Professional and Contracted Services

6.	Required 6% of funds for technical assistance provided by the regional ESC	\$47,561.53
7.	Required 10% of funds to the Texas Center for Student Supports	\$79,269.22
8.	Leader in Me Training	\$30,000.00
9.	CPM Training	\$7,500.00
10.	Restorative Discipline Training	\$10,000.00

Supplies and Materials

11.	Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Manuals	\$3,524.70
12.		
13.		

Other Operating Costs

15.		
16.		
17.		

Debt Services

18.		
19.		

Capital Outlay

20.		
-----	--	--

Direct administrative costs:

Indirect administrative costs: \$23,780.76

TOTAL GRANT AWARD REQUESTED: \$943,303.71

For TEA Use Only:

Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.

Appendix I: Negotiation and Amendments

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 of the TEA website and may be mailed OR faxed (not both). **To fax:** one copy of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to either (512) 463-9811 or (512) 463-9564. **To mail:** three copies of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to the address on page 1. More detailed amendment instructions can be found on the last page of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page.

For amendments, choose the section you wish to amend from the drop down menu on the left. In the text box on the right, describe the changes you are making and the reason for them.

Always work with the most recent negotiated or amended application. If you are requesting a revised budget, please include the budget attachments with your amendment.

Section Being Negotiated or Amended

Negotiated Change or Amendment

Dropdown menu

Text area for amendment details

Dropdown menu

Text area for amendment details

Dropdown menu

Text area for amendment details

Dropdown menu

Text area for amendment details

Dropdown menu

Text area for amendment details

For TEA Use Only:
Adjustments on this page have been confirmed with _____ by _____ of TEA by phone / fax / email on _____.