



**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 **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), P.L. 114-95, Section 1003, School Improvement**

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 **June 3, 2021-August 31, 2023**

Pre-award costs permitted from **Award Date**

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.

The District will support the Little Cypress Elementary campus in their support and improvement activities in several ways. The District Coordinator of School Improvement (DCSI) ensures the successful implementation of the Targeted Improvement Plan for this campus and is responsible for all implementation of all intervention requirements. The District ensures the DCSI and/or the Executive Director of Education, as the principal's supervisor, have the necessary authority to create conditions for school success. District leaders will schedule meetings to review data and student progress with campus leaders, they will also schedule time for observations and feedback with campus staff. The District supports the campus principal by protecting their time dedicated to educational leadership, and the district policies and practices. Having time will give the campus administration staff the ability to dedicate appropriate time for instruction, instructional support, and data disaggregation which in turn will produce improved student performance.

The district monitors the campus progress toward their goal completion as stated in their Comprehensive Needs Assessment and Campus Improvement Plan. All district campuses including Little Cypress Elementary use the web-based improvement plan program Plan4Learning. This program is designed specifically for the planning process to simplify and streamline key steps while ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal requirements. The campus defines its mission, vision, and identifies needs, then develops goals, performance objectives and strategies which are periodically assessed for their progress.

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 District Coordinator of School Improvement will meet with the campus principal on a scheduled bases to monitor implementation of the goals, objectives and strategies stated in the Campus Improvement Plan and expected for the ESF-Focused Support Grant. Three times annually the goals are reviewed for evidence of progress, measures, or impact of the expected result of strategies, and if staff are adequately identifying and monitoring and adjusting all aspects needed for goal success. The Comprehensive Needs Assessment is an ongoing cycle changes happen as needs change if programs are not meeting their goals or if students' needs change due to unforeseen circumstances such as hurricanes, pandemics, or ice storms. It's the Districts responsibility to help campuses navigate these changes.

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 District Coordinator of School Improvement will use data to modify, as appropriate, practices and policies to provide operational flexibility to the campus. District leaders ensure the campus is setup for success with effective, well-supported teachers, a high-quality curriculum, positive campus, and district culture.

Choosing Pathway 1 we will be working with Region 5 Educational Service Center and the Texas Instructional Leadership Approach (TIL) which is aligned with best practices. By providing Face-to-face professional development, implementation support, and one-on-one coaching the district with the support of TIL will be growing the campus staff into leaders.

The Campus is choosing Effective Schools Framework Essential Action 1.1: Developing campus instructional leaders with clear roles and responsibilities. In this ESF Essential Action the principal will grow campus leaders with the support of the District through regularly scheduled, job-embedded professional development, thoughtful and strategic modeling, and classroom visits with feedback.

Lead teachers will review lesson plans, observe classroom instruction, hold debrief meetings with teachers, provide evidence-based feedback, and lead PLC meetings.

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.

The district is asking for \$99,000 in ESF-Focused Support Grant funds. The District is proposing adding the cost of an Instructional Coach for the Little Cypress Elementary campus to observe teachers,

6100

\$30,000 for an Instructional Coach can be a valuable change agent on campus. The Instructional Coach, having both content and instructional expertise, works with the classroom teachers to support student learning and teacher practice. The Instructional Coach will provide job-embedded professional development for teachers through modeling while expanding and refining an understanding about researched-base effective instruction for teachers.

6200

\$40,000 will go to Region 5 Educational Service Center as our ESC -Vetted Improvement Program partner for two years.

6300

\$25,000 for resources and high-quality instructional materials directly aligned to the ESF-Prioritized Focus Area for the campus

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.

As stated, this grant program is intended to support the applicant with school-level improvement efforts to directly benefit the Comprehensive Improvement schools. The Title I , 1003 Effective Schools Framework-Focused Support Grant should be used to support the awarded school with efforts to strengthen campus systems, build staff capacity, improve school outcomes and continue implementation and/or support of their improvement efforts. The Little Cypress Elementary campus with the support of the Little Cypress Mauriceville CISD has been involved in this improvement process since the 2018-2019 school year.

The District assures all Federal, State and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this grant will follow the general and fiscal guidelines. Activities and resources will be regularly monitored for compliance, audited for accuracy, and evaluated for progress with program requirements.

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