



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="0"/>
Pathway 2	<input type="text" value="8"/>

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.

Arlington Independent School District (AISD) will support eight Targeted Support campuses in carrying out school support and improvement activities to:

- Strengthen campus systems, • Build staff capacity, • Improve school outcomes, including • Continue implementation and/or support of improvement efforts. AISD respectfully requests funding of \$792,000 from the Title I, 1003 Effective Schools Framework Focused-Support grant to directly benefit eight Title I-served, federally identified Targeted Support campuses: Berry, Crouch, Crow, Hale, Larson, Morton, Rankin, and South Davis Elementaries (2020 ratings).

AISD district/campus leaders have chosen to partner with Engage2Learn (e2L) through PATHWAY 2-Participation in an External Vetted Improvement Program (VIP) to meet the program/grant objectives including the development and use of a web-based improvement plan for selected campuses. Partnering with e2L in other AISD-Title I initiatives, e2L is a TEA-vetted and approved training program that can support the district and identified campuses in high-quality contracted services aligned with foundational essential actions within the Effective Schools Framework (ESF). e2L will provide The Catalyst Coaching Program – tiered coaching alignment and support for Principal Supervisors, campus Instructional Leaders, and Teachers. Executive training focuses on leadership orientation and coaching calibrations to ensure alignment of specific critical actions for supporting campus leaders related to each of the Prioritized Focus Areas listed in campus web-based improvement plans. The training and coaching are designed to utilize best practices for adult learning, deliberate modeling, and observation and feedback cycles. Practices are purposefully aligned to e2L LEAD Standards© to ensure the key practices of ESF 1.1 are continuously enacted so campus leaders have transparency in roles and responsibilities, expectations, and protocols/processes to lead effectively.

AISD district leaders (Chief Academic Officer, Assistant Superintendent of School Leadership, Director of School Improvement, Director of State/Federal Programs, Area Superintendents), and campus principals support the campus' participation in each phase of the improvement process including: data analysis, needs assessment, and developing, implementing, and monitoring a customized Improvement Plan that meets each campus' needs/plan for improvement aligned to ESF focus area(s) and VIP pathway of choice. In addition, e2L will meet regularly with district and campus staff to monitor progress and review data, infusing job-embedded professional development to ensure fidelity of implementation and growth.

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.

AISD and e2L will work with the eight identified campuses (Berry, Crouch, Crow, Hale, Larson, Morton, Rankin, and S Davis) to create a timeline of implementation, and ensure all components of the Statutory Requirements and Program Specific Assurances are met with fidelity. AISD has notified e2L of the district's intent to apply and will work in good faith to meet program objectives. Funds will be budgeted as required. The Campus Grant Project Contact on each awarded campus is the campus Principal.

Each campus awarded will engage in all grant requirements and submissions, including: • ESF self-assessment, • ESF Diagnostic (ESF-D) visit, if campus has not had one in the last 3 years, • Develop an ESF-aligned web-based improvement plan to address needs and participate in progress submissions during the school year, • Engage in capacity-building pathway(s) including ongoing feedback, coaching and implementation support from the Division of School Improvement, progress reports, • Participate in differentiated trainings on ESF Framework Overview (if not yet attended, web-based improvement plan development, grant spending and coaching • Provide access to VIP and/or TEA for on-site visits, • Attend and participate in meetings for: grant orientation, technical assistance, sharing of best practices.

Using compliance measures such as data review and regular check-ins with e2L (PATHWAY 2 VIP), district/campus stakeholders, AISD will a) Monitor web-based improvement plans upon submission and during implementation, and b) Implement additional action in the event the plan is unsuccessful. Ensuring that leader/teacher growth at each identified campus is aligned to Essential Action (EA) Key Practices, is a high priority for the state as well as AISD and e2L. To ensure fidelity of implementation for campus web-based improvement plans, e2L provides Area Superintendents, Principals/Campus Leaders, and Teachers access to the eSuite® web-based platform that documents growth through evidence-based coaching on best practices for leadership and instructional best practices. The web-based improvement platform interweaves web applications that connect to create powerful growth opportunities for educators. Applications are designed specifically for educators at all levels to help them grow and master their craft and serves as a repository for resources, a location for collaboration, and a transparent, intentional system to document all growth interactions that provides educators 24/7 access to data to track both the effort and impact of coaching and growth.

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.

AISD is applying for the ESF Focused-Support grant to benefit 8 Title I-served, federally identified Targeted Support campuses: Berry, Crouch, Crow, Hale, Larson, Morton, Rankin, and South Davis Elementaries (2020 ratings). In addition, the district is applying for PRIORITY POINTS for campuses with: 1) High-need Campus State Accountability Rating, 2) Economically Disadvantaged Campus (2019-2020 TAPR), and 3) Geographic Location (NCES). All identified campuses are Title I school wide status, and have the federal support label "Targeted Support". Campus results for priority points are as follows in each of the three areas:

- Berry Elementary: D, 98%, City, 18 points
- Crouch Elementary: C, 99%, Suburb, 19 points
- Crow Elementary: D, 96%, City, 18 points
- Hale Elementary: D, 95%, City, 18 points
- Larson Elementary: D, 77%, Suburb, 15 points
- Morton Elementary: D, 86%, City, 18 points
- Rankin Elementary: D, 98%, City, 18 points
- South Davis Elementary: D, 98%, City, 18 points

AISD will assist awarded campuses in all aspects of the continuous improvement process for: data analysis, needs assessment, and development, implementing and monitoring a plan for improvement. AISD and e2L will develop SMART GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & STRATEGIES to monitor and measure the program's impact over time for each of the identified campuses for the 2021-2023 ESF grant project, and will update as needed based on evaluation results. AISD campuses will collect data and report on the following mandatory PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

- Participation in an ESF Diagnostic
- Participation in ESF-aligned differentiated trainings, as necessary and required
- Development of a web-based Improvement Plan and progress submissions
- Participation in feedback and coaching from the Division of School Improvement
- Participation in grant spending coaching and training

Required PATHWAY 2 PERFORMANCE MEASURES to be monitored and reported to TEA via the web-based improvement plan include (but will not be limited to):

- Training and professional development participation
- On-site observation visits and feedback
- Direct coaching
- Implementation of VIP practices

EVALUATION: Based upon the review/evaluation of formative and summative results, benchmarks and progress attained toward SMART GOALS, campuses that do not show improvement will receive additional targeted support in year 2.

To provide OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY to awarded campuses, AISD/e2L will modify, as appropriate, practices and policies that enable full and effective implementation of the Effective Schools Framework EA-aligned web-based Improvement Plan. The e2L Catalyst Coaching Program for Principal Supervisors follows the same program and training focus areas provided for campus instructional leaders. In conjunction with those focus areas, e2L Certified Executive Coaches work with Principal Supervisors on specific critical moves for supporting campus leaders related to each focus area to ensure continuity and long-term sustainability of continuous improvement processes across all improvement required campuses. e2L facilitators will align training and coaching outcomes to the Effective Schools Framework Essential Actions aligned web-based improvement plan.

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.

Arlington Independent School District requests \$792,000 from the ESF Focused-Support grant to benefit eight elementary schools. These funds are supplemental, and will not supplant existing federal, state, or local funds available. Direct costs, and direct administrative costs are reasonable and necessary for the program implementation. AISD has vast experience in managing grant programs and the capacity to administer the Texas Education Agency Title 1 ESF Focused-Support grant with fidelity to meet all objectives, both programmatically and fiscally. District policies are in place to ensure that activities are completed on time, within budget, and with quality results. AISD will follow local, state, federal and funder guidelines and policies for staff, fingerprinting and background checks, accounting, and purchasing.

Program costs for the grant cycle (July 2021 through September 2023), include:

- Contract Services with external TEA-approved Vetted Improvement Program (VIP) Engage to Learn, to engage in Pathway 2 Training Programs*: \$756,288 (\$94,536 x 8 campuses)
- Contract Services with Region 11 and/or Center for Effective Schools for Technical Assistance directly aligned to ESF-Prioritized Focus Areas (\$5,000)
- Supplies/Materials for instructional materials directly aligned to the ESF-Prioritized Focus areas for each campus (\$3,072)
- Indirect Costs, based on AISD’s current TEA-approved Restricted Indirect Cost Rate of 3.492% (\$27,640).

***ENGAGE 2 LEARN COMPONENTS**

- Principal Supervisor Training and Coaching
e2L will provide training for Principal Supervisors through a two-day Coaches Academy, followed by seven (7) coaching sessions on specific critical moves for supporting campus leaders related to each of the prioritized Focus Areas listed in campus web-based Improvement Plans.
- Executive Training and Coaching for Campus
Principal Supervisors, Principals, Assistant Principals, and other campus leaders receive orientation and calibrations over two years that provide implementation support to help campus leaders design systems for securing the best possible teaching faculty, transforming campus culture, and increasing elements of effective instruction in every classroom. The campus leaders also have seven (7) follow-up coaching sessions to ensure the capacity-building is effective and sustainable.
- Teacher Training and Coaching
e2L’s certified coaches provide teachers targeted, intensive support through a three-day training and personalized follow-up coaching focused on effective instruction and instructional strategies that improve both objective-driven daily lesson plans and data-driven instruction. The training also includes TEKS-aligned unit design. All trainings may be scaled for efficiencies based on district needs and size.

FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY ADJUSTMENTS

With the understanding that the overall shape and scope of the program is dependent upon funding and resources available at the time, AISD actively seeks additional funding streams and sustainability for programs. AISD is committed to providing research-based leadership programs and building effective leadership from within the district and hopes to increase internal funding of this program over time. In order to meet future needs, funding needs will be evaluated and requests adjusted to ensure long-term sustainability.

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.

FUND ALIGNMENT

The goals for the Effective Schools Framework are in alignment with that of AISD to:

- strengthen the instructional core by supporting effective teachers,
- provide high-quality curriculum, and
- provide a positive school culture at campuses throughout the district.

AISD will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with funds received under this grant. We seek to maximize grants and partnership investments to increase the capacity and impact of the ESF-Focused grant goals and objectives. The eight identified campuses (Berry, Crouch, Crow, Hale, Larson, Morton, Rankin, and South Davis Elementaries) receive funds from several other fund sources for similar programs. Programs/fund sources include (but are not limited to):

- Title I, Part A;
- Title I, School Improvement Program;
- Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction;
- Title III, ELA; and
- IDEA-B, Formula/ Preschool/Discretionary grants.

Other program initiatives in the district include: State Compensatory Education, U.S. Department of Justice School Violence Prevention Program (COPS), and the Texas Office of the Governor – Elevate Project. Activities for each of the programs/funding sources are based on the premise that every student can succeed. The district is committed to: providing leadership in the effective use of state and federal funds to implement supplementary targeted interventions to students eligible for services; providing guidance in the use of supplemental funds for instruction, professional learning, and parent engagement; and reducing performance gaps between advantaged and disadvantaged students in order to help them meet high academic standards.

SHORT-TERM GOAL

Integrate ESF Focused-Support grant funding with state and local initiatives to maximize resources and meet annual shared goals.

LONG-TERM GOAL

Reduce gaps in support to improve school-level efforts which directly benefit the AISD campuses labeled: Comprehensive Support/Improvement, Targeted Support/Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement schools.

Understanding the importance of long-term sustainability, Arlington Independent School District’s staff and board are constantly developing and implementing plans to increase discretionary funding in order to improve effective instruction and ensure an excellent education for all students. The overall goal of district Fund Development is to sustain and/or increase student academic outcomes over time, rather than programs. Building strong campus leadership teams through focused training enables AISD to build the organizational capacity to improve student outcomes.

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