2021-2023 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2021

TEA Texas Education Agency®

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 8, 2021-September 30, 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): | N/A

Applicant Information

Organization	Winfree Academy	CDN	057828	Campus	All	ESC	10	DUNS	111653713

Address	1555 Valwood Parkway Suite #160	City	Carrollton	ZIP	75006	Vendor ID	1311686000

Primary Contact	Carrie Alexander	Email	calexander@wacsd.com	Phone	972-869-3250
Secondary Contact	Emily Keating	Email	ekeating@wacsd.com	Phone	972-869-3250

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	Brandy Schott	Title	Superintendent

Email	bschott@wacsd.com	Phone	972-869-3250

Signature		Date	04/21/2021

Shared Services Arrangements

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

Number of Campuses Included in this Application

Pathway 1   6

Pathway 2   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.

Winfree Academy Charter Schools (WACS) will develop and implement a web-based Improvement Plan aligned with our current Effective Schools Framework (ESF) Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) for each campus, as well as create the guidelines for the web-based training. Each campus will create a committee made up of both campus and district staff, and will collaborate to create their web-based Improvement Plan. WACS will establish district commitments aligning our current ESF TIP and new web-based Improvement Plan. Key resources that will be used to develop a web-based Improvement Plan on each campus will be the current ESF TIP along with the results of our 2019-20 ESF Diagnostic visit.

Texas Instructional Leadership(TIL) is a program that builds the capacity of campus and district instructional leaders on their ability to continuously improve instruction and instructional leadership. It provides whole group professional development, implementation support, and one-on-one coaching to support implementation of concrete instructional leadership skills in areas of observation and feedback, school wide culture routines, data driven instruction and lesson alignment and formative assessment. This is a direct correlation of Essential Action 1.1: Developing campus instructional leaders with clear roles and responsibilities. Essential Action 1.1 is a district defined need for all six of our campuses. Building the capacity of campus leaders targets our Effective Schools Framework implementation and supports principal leadership and development.

This grant opportunity will significantly support our comprehensive support and improvement efforts. The partnership and alignment of current targeted improvement plans will strengthen campus systems, build staff and leadership capacity, improve school outcomes, and continue the progress and implementation our school improvement efforts.

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.

WACS will formally monitor all activities based on guidelines set forth by the ESF-Focused Support Grant. Current campus Targeted Improvement Plans are monitored in three (3) cycles throughout the school year and were created in collaboration with the ESF School Improvement team at Region 10 ESC. A primary focus for all campuses will be on the ESF levers that were identified in our 2019-2020 ESF Diagnostic visit. To address insufficient or unsuccessful implementation of the plan, WACS will implement additional action by implementation and carryover for each cycle. WACS will conduct an end-of-year review to determine new barriers that might have surfaced to plan accordingly for the next year.

Monitoring practices for our TIPs currently include:
-Using ESF Key Practices as we monitor each campus TIP implementation
-Conducting ILT meetings to review calendar, review lesson plans provide actionable feedback and follow up, review student/teacher data, monitoring PLC processes
-SIP reporting for action steps such as: review of lesson plans and feedback
-Instructional observations, coaching, feedback, review, discuss, analyze teacher/student artifacts, coaching plans
-Professional development planning, training, follow up sessions - campus based
-PD Surveys
-PLC training, meetings, agendas, follow up, review, discuss, analyze PLC artifacts
-Reflective conversations with educators/administrators planning lessons for instruction, observations
-Collecting evidence of TIP implementation

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.

WACS will collaborate and communicate with our ESC to modify practices and policies as needed. TIL trainings are aligned to best practices described in the Effective Schools Framework. WACS will utilize current campus plans, ESF Diagnostic, capacity-building pathway progress reports, and new ESF- aligned web-based improvement plan to identify and address needs, as well as will participate in progress submissions. WACS will participate in ESF differentiated training and participate in feedback and coaching. Our grant project contact will ensure effective implementation through oversight of daily operations related to the implementation of the ESF Essential Actions aligned web-based Improvement Plan, monitoring of the plans and artifacts, effective communication, and by ensuring flexibility to adjust as needed.

WACS will operationally target and implement the School Improvement Theory of Action:

-Build a common vision of the highest leverage school practices (ESF)
-Assess current state of school practice in relation to that vision (ESF Diagnostic)
-Prioritize gaps in systems and practices (SI Improvement Plan)
-Connect to effective & specialized capacity builders (VIP/TIL)
-Receive ongoing, targeted feedback and support in plan implementation and change management

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.

VIP-Vetted Partner(Coaching and training)-$70,000 per campus
-Our partnership with the vetted partner region 10 Texas Instructional Leadership will assist with meeting the needs and goals of our program. TIL directly aligns with our ESF priority levers.

Instructional materials (Support)-$17,000 per campus
-Money will be allocated for additional instructional materials that may be needed as we work through our continuous improvement web based plans. Instructional materials will be directly aligned to the ESF focus areas

Teacher Stipends/Extra duty pay(Participation)-$11,000 per campus
-Staff will receive stipends for extra duties to support the implementations of our strategies for improvement.

Travel Expenses(Support)-$1,000 per campus
-Money will be allocated for any travel expenses for staff for training or to visit other successful schools outside of our district.

Total cost per campus- $99,000

Adjustments will be made in the future depending on which campus(es) are awarded the grant. We will use best practices for administering a grant:

-Have clear, written policies and procedures
-Use a system of checks and balances and dual sign-offs for fund requests
-Revisit the grant's program guidelines regularly
-Monitor activities and records
-Seek support from regional ESC

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.

WACS will align all applicable Federal, State, and local resources to activities related to our ESF priority levers for each campus. All expenditures under this grant will target these priority levers.

WACS will ensure that the efforts funded with school improvement funds: are well aligned with those supported under other Federal, State, and local programs; will combine to form a single vision for excellence, and; will be held to the same accountability standards.

WACS will ensure school improvement funds will work in tandem with other provisions and funding available under ESSA, including:
• Title II funding, which supports professional development and other efforts to improve the quality, quantity, and diversity of educators using objective measures that can be incorporated intoimprovement plans;
• Title III funding, which supports language instruction for English learners;
• Title IV, which includes funding for the new Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, which provide flexibility for how funds are spent and could be focused on helping to support strategies identified as part of the school improvement plans; and
• Provisions regarding data that must be collected at the school and district level, particularly the use of new data elements related to teacher effectiveness and resource allocation

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 Students   Barrier Cult., linguistic or eco. diversity; Drug-related activities; Visual impairme

Group Teachers   Barrier Cult., linguistic or eco diversity; Drug-related act.; Learning dis.; Absent

Group Other   Barrier Cult., Linguistic or eco. diversity; Drug-related activities; Absenteeism/t

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**

RFA #   SAS #