

IDEA B Discretionary Technical Assistance and Support Grant Opportunity for 2019-2020

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is actively seeking Letters of Interest (LoI) from potential grantees to provide opportunities for specific work toward statewide ***Intervention Best Practices***. Interested Regional Education Service Centers (ESC) and/or Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) should submit an LoI in the template included in Attachment A to TEA **by October 1, 2018 at 5 pm CDT**. Potential grantees are encouraged to seek cooperative partnerships or collaborative agreements to successfully meet all goals and objectives of the grant. Funding is allocated from IDEA B Discretionary funds and scheduled for implementation in the 2019-2020 school year.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for this funding opportunity are limited to the 20 regional education service centers and/or all institutions of higher education located in Texas. Other nonprofits or for-profit organizations, foreign institutions, and individuals are not eligible to apply; however, they may participate with an eligible applicant as a project partner (encouraged, as applicable).

1.1 Program Description

The ***Intervention Best Practices*** grant is designed to provide a comprehensive and coherent plan for intervention best practice across the state. This plan will include best practice models for, at minimum, the specific intervention programs listed in the program activities section of this document. Additionally, the plan will outline fidelity of implementation tools for these programs to be used in local education agency (LEA) self-evaluations and to report progress to stakeholders. This plan will build capacity in LEAs to effectively implement the statewide models for interventions by creating profession development and resources that are easily accessible to every LEA in the state.

The content of all resources and professional development materials produced through this grant must be firmly grounded in current literature and policy on special education best practice with explicit citations. All resources must be made available to all stakeholders.

Additional considerations for materials and resources produced through this grant:

- TEA maintains the right to final approval on all materials and resources before publication or presentation.
- All materials and resources will carry the TEA logo in addition to the logo of the grant awardee.
- All materials and resources are the property of TEA and must be provided to TEA at the end of the grant period or upon request.
- All materials or resources intended for use with parents and families will be made available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Grant awardees will make formal quarterly reports to TEA on identified outcomes-based, quantifiable lead measures with lag measure reporting at the end of the grant period. These measures must be mutually approved by the grantee and TEA and should be clearly proposed in the LoI response. Additionally, budget proposals and final budget tables must include line-item/deliverable-based pricing.

1.2 Program Goal

The goal of the ***Intervention Best Practices*** grant is to increase LEA capacity to effectively develop and implement an integrated, comprehensive framework for intervention that is grounded in differentiated

instruction and which aligns the systems that are fundamental for all students' academic, behavioral, and social achievement.

1.3 Program Activities

Strong applications will demonstrate a basis in evidence-based practices for activities to support improvements in Texas. The proposed program activities should design a comprehensive framework and models of coaching for educators in Texas. The activities should also include specific guidance to support data-driven decision-making, implementation of best practices, and allocation of resources that meet the individualized academic, behavioral, and social needs of students in Texas.

It is required that the proposed programs contain at a **minimum**, the following:

- A coherent and comprehensive plan as indicated in the program description section of this plan consisting of evidence-based practices that focus on aligning professional development, resources and initiatives to include: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Response to Intervention (RtI), universal screening, data-driven decision making, progress monitoring, problem-solving teams, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, Restorative Practices, and Culturally Responsive Pedagogical Practices.
- Guidance to support data-driven decision making of practices that meet the individualized academic, behavioral, and social needs of students in Texas.
- A plan for dissemination of support funds to regional ESCs to support implementation of work associated with PBIS.
- A plan for a model for educators should containing following:
 - Utilization of a variety of delivery methods and modalities (i.e. models of coaching and/or mentoring)
 - Creation of deliverables that are accessible and user-friendly for ESCs and all LEAs in the state
 - Plan for follow-up and ongoing support/training
 - Details on a plan for periodic and consistent fidelity of implementation checks among stakeholders
 - Quantitative and qualitative methods, including lead and lag measures for evaluating effectiveness
 - A plan for continuing professional education (CPE) opportunities

1.4 Program Budget

\$2,000,000 (Includes funds intended to be distributed to regional ESCs to support implementation of work associated with PBIS)

1.5 Timeline

Lols must be submitted electronically to sped@tea.texas.gov by 5pm (CDT) on October 1, 2018 in order to be considered. Hard copy mailed or delivered Lols will not be accepted. Applicants should combine all attachments and documents into one PDF to include a cover sheet and table of contents. Grant awardees will be notified by November 1, 2018, with the grant period to begin July 1, 2019. This is a one-year grant that may be extended for additional years at TEA discretion.

1.6 Closing and Next Steps

Strong applications with a likelihood of award will be innovative in nature, demonstrate clear planning toward stated goals, and focus on producing desired outcomes rather than simply activity completion.

A virtual applicants' conference will be held the week of July 16, 2018. Questions submitted to sped@tea.texas.gov prior to July 13, 2018 will be answered at that time and an FAQ will be published. When submitting questions, applicants should include the name of this grant in the subject line. Applicants should refer to www.tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED for details and updates regarding the applicants' conference and this request for Lol generally.