2023-2025 Title I, 1003 ESF-Focused Support Grant
Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, April 21, 2023

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, 2023**.

Grant period from: **July 3, 2023-September 30, 2025**

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 Attachment
3. Pathway 2: Pathway 2 Supplemental Attachment
4. Memo of Discussion

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	Texarkana ISD	CDN	019907	Campus	Westlawn	ESC	8
UEI	N/A						
Address	4241 Summerhill Road	City	Texarkana	ZIP	75503	Vendor ID	756002579
Primary Contact	Holly Tucker	Email	holly.tucker@txkisd.net	Phone	903-793-7561		
Secondary Contact	Christy Tidwell	Email	christy.tidwell@txkisd.net	Phone	903-793-7561		

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
- ☒ General and application-specific Provisions and Assurances
- ☒ Debarment and Suspension Certification
- ☒ Lobbying Certification

Authorized Official Name	Holly Tucker	Title	Chief Academic Officer
Email	holly.tucker@txkisd.net	Phone	903-793-7561
Signature	Holly Tucker	Date	04/20/2023

Digitally signed by Holly Tucker
DN: cn=Holly Tucker, o=Texarkana ISD, ou, email=holly.tucker@txkisd.net, c=US
Date: 2023.04.21 07:36:14 -05'00'

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Shared Services Arrangements

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

Number of Campuses Included in this Application

Pathway 1	0
Pathway 2	1

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 2023-2025 Title I, ESF-Focused Support Grant Program Guidelines.

☒ 4. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2023-2025 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. The applicant will identify a campus leader, on each awarded campus, who will be responsible for managing the grant project.

Statutory/Program Assurances, cont'd.

☒ 10. The applicant will provide access to TEA and its Vetted Improvement Partners for on-site visits to the district and campus(es) as appropriate.

☒ 11. 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 Targeted Improvement Plan, and submission of funding and pathway progress reports.

☒ 12. The applicant provides assurance it will provide awarded campuses access to grant funding and funding information in a timely manner, so that funding can be used to meet the needs and action steps of the campus during the grant period.

Summary of Program

1. Describe how the LEA will support campus(es) in carrying out school improvement activities, including how the LEA will help develop a Targeted Improvement Plan for the eligible campus(es) selected for this grant.

Texarkana ISD will support the campus by encouraging and guiding the process of continuous improvement through ongoing assessment of all student and staff needs, identification of the prioritized essential actions, and the development of goals and strategies needed to address the identified areas. A collaborative team will be designated to serve as the campus leadership team and will be comprised of both district and campus staff to ensure representation from all areas of identified need. The district will collaborate with Educational Service Center (Region 8) staff to provide the campus with support in the development of the targeted improvement plan in creating goals aligned with the prioritized essential actions identified through current needs assessment practices and the ESF diagnostic process.

Campus and district leaders will meet initially to determine action steps for the implementation of goals and strategies and designate accountability for monitoring the implementation of the plan. Following the development of the plan, campus and district leaders will meet biweekly to discuss any potential barriers and determine strategies to ensure successful implementation. The district is committed to providing the leadership team with the flexibility to make operational and budgeting decisions that best meet the needs identified through the self-assessment, diagnostic, and analysis of student performance data. A review of current systems and processes will ensure that the campus has the necessary resources to support the implementation of the goals and strategies and meet the needs of all students. The district is committed to providing additional resources that will assist the campus in the successful implementation of the improvement plan. Systems and processes for data analysis, professional growth for teachers and staff, and identification of resources will be implemented to ensure the elimination of any barriers to student success.

2. Describe how the LEA will monitor schools receiving the ESF-Focused Support Grant, including how the LEA will: (a) Monitor Targeted Improvement Plans upon submission and during implementation, and (b) Implement additional actions as needed to meet barriers and challenges, after the first year of the grant cycle.

Texarkana ISD utilizes a web-based improvement planning platform (Plan4Learning) that houses the Targeted Improvement Plan. Goals and strategies are evaluated for progress through the built-in formative review cycles in November, February, April, and June for the Targeted Improvement Plan. The principal supervisor and DCSI meet with the campus principal at each formative review cycle to discuss progress toward meeting identified goals and strategies. Areas of need are discussed to determine if progress is on track, the identification of any effective implementation barriers, and adjustments that need to be made in order to obtain the desired outcomes. In addition, the principal supervisor visits the campus and meets biweekly with an agenda that includes a review of the progress of the Targeted Improvement Plan goals and strategies. District directors and coordinators consistently monitor areas of need and schedule professional development and coaching based on identified needs, requests from campus leadership, and/or requests by the principal supervisor. District and campus staff will meet in a set cadence with the external partner to ensure ongoing progress. The principal supervisor, DCSI, district content directors, and coordinators will designate specific dates for campus observations focused on specific targets based on the goals and strategies. Professional development days for campus learning are identified in the district school calendar and are set aside for the campus to make decisions on individualized needs aligned with the goals and strategies included in the plan.
The district implements an annual planning process for the upcoming school year that begins in the fall with the needs assessment of the current school year. Through the comprehensive needs assessment, the following data elements are reviewed: student, parent, and staff survey data, student performance, attendance, discipline data, staff appraisal data, and the current school year performance objectives (goals) and strategies. Following the needs assessment, campuses begin the identification of goals and strategies and initiate the development of the year 2 targeted improvement plan. If the campus is unsuccessful in the implementation of the plan in the first year, the campus/district leadership team will conduct a root cause analysis, analyze data from multiple areas, determine which goals and strategies are producing the desired results, modify goals and strategies where needed, and develop strategies for corrective action. The implementation of the corrected strategies and activities will be monitored more frequently by the principal supervisor and the campus leadership team to ensure the campus stays on track with the 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 and aligned Targeted Improvement Plan.

The district currently has an ongoing practice of frequently reviewing systems that are implemented district-wide to determine areas of campus-level autonomy. Texarkana ISD will enable full and effective implementation of the ESF-aligned Targeted Improvement Plan. Texarkana ISD currently gives campuses the autonomy to create their own master schedule and make staffing assignments for the schedule. The campus currently has implemented professional learning communities at each grade level by content. The campuses will be granted flexibility in how they schedule their professional learning communities (PLC), allowing for PLCs that prioritize aligning content, strategies, and student routines across the 2nd and 3rd-grade levels. These collaborative teams are provided access to curriculum documents organized by standards to be taught during the grading period. Though the district has identified essential standards at each grade level through district-wide teacher feedback, the campus collaborative teams have the autonomy to utilize their student data to determine the sequence and pacing of implementation.

The campus is staffed with two instructional coaches that are housed at the campus. The flexibility to provide one-on-one coaching sessions with individual teachers can be provided at the discretion of the campus leadership with duration contingent on need.

In addition to the flexibilities afforded to the campus, the district also commits to providing the principal supervisor and the designated District Coordinator for School Improvement protected time to engage in instructional leadership and principal coaching by reserving a minimum of one day a week for campus site visits. The district will ensure that the awarded campus has protected time to engage in partnership with the VIP partner, EdDirection.

Budget Narrative

1. Describe how the proposed budget will meet the needs and goals of the program, including staffing, supplies and materials, contracts, travel, etc. Include a short narrative describing how adjustments will be made in the future to meet needs.

Texarkana ISD will enter into a partnership with the TEA-vetted improvement program provider, EdDirection. District leadership met with EdDirection to discuss the campus' identified needs and the Effective Schools Framework levers and essential actions that align with the campus needs. The largest line item within the budget will be 6200 in order to establish the VIP partnership for the scope of support. Focus essential actions include Strong School Leadership and Planning (1.2) compelling and aligned vision, mission, goals, values focused on a safe environment, high expectations, and rigorous instruction and Effective Instruction (5.1) professional development for effective classroom instruction. EdDirection specializes in working with districts and campuses to implement processes and systems that support high expectations and rigorous instruction. The partnership will also engage in the continuous improvement cycle of observation, coaching, and feedback for instructional improvement to identify and utilize a multi-tiered system of support for students. Teams will collaborate to develop strong professional learning communities grounded in data analysis to drive instructional improvements as well as conversations around instructional delivery techniques to promote student engagement and formative assessment to ensure student mastery of objectives. Teachers and leaders will work together to support professional learning and growth through collaboration and coaching. The proposed budget will also support professional learning by covering substitute costs (Object 6100) and extra duty pay for teachers to collaborate through peer observations or through targeted professional development which may occur during or outside of the contracted instructional day. Additional budgeted items will include targeted, high-quality, aligned-to-need instructional materials (Object 6300) needed to support diverse student populations. Costs for travel will be limited to cover mileage costs between learning sites and the campus as well as any potential consultant travel (Object 6400). The two-year grant life will allow the campus to build capacity within the leadership team and teacher leaders on campus who are actively involved in the work. This process will contribute to sustainability at the campus.

Budget Narrative, cont'd.

2. Describe how the LEA will ensure campus leaders have direct access to grant funding to ensure alignment to the Targeted Improvement Plan.

As part of the grant development process, the campus and district team reviewed the way in which federal, state, and local resources could be coordinated to support the most effective use of grant funds. Title I funds are made available to the campus to use at their discretion to support the goals of the targeted improvement plan. Texarkana ISD will use local funds to support the project, including oversight and monitoring by the DCSI and principal supervisor who are already working with the campus. This enables grant funds to be used specifically to support the work of the ESF prioritized focus areas. The campus leadership will utilize the formative assessments of the targeted improvement plan to evaluate the effectiveness of all strategies and will have the ability to reallocate funds to overcome barriers that arise during the implementation of the plan.

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	

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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