



2022-2024 Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP) Grant Letter of Interest (LOI) Application Due 11:59 p.m. CT, July 12, 2022

NOGA ID [redacted]

Authorizing legislation

General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 86, 87th Texas Legislature

This LOI application must be submitted via email to **competitivegrants@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, July 12, 2022**.

Application stamp-in date and time

Grant period from

August 31, 2022 to April 30, 2024

Pre-award costs are **not** permitted for this grant.

Required Attachments

- 1. Excel workbook with the grant's budget schedules (linked along with this form on the TEA Grants Opportunities page)

Amendment Number

Amendment number (For amendments only; enter N/A when completing this form to apply for grant funds):

n/a

Applicant Information

Organization Comal ISD CDN 046902 Campus all high schools ESC 20 UEI #010541498

Address 1404 IH 25 N City New Braunfels ZIP 78130 Vendor ID 1746001777

Primary Contact Renee Martinez Email renee.martinez@comalisd.org Phone 8302212138

Secondary Contact Elizabeth Trevino Email lizzie.trevino@comalisd.org Phone 8302212190

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 Crystal Hermesch Title CFO

Email crystal.hermesch@comalisd.org Phone 8302212142

Signature *Crystal Hermesch* Date 7/11/2022

Shared Services Arrangements

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are **not** permitted for this grant.

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 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.

- 2. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2022-2024 Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP) Grant Program Guidelines.

- 3. The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2022-2024 Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles (CSP) Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.

- 4. The applicant will include AP CSP as part of the course catalog for the 2023-2024 school year by December 2022 and will go through the necessary district policies to obtain school board approval.

- 5. The applicant will identify, recruit, and onboard qualified teachers to receive professional development training and become certified to teach an AP CSP course.

- 6. The applicant will identify and select a professional development provider.

- 7. The applicant will promote the AP CSP course offering to all students.

- 8. The applicant will provide support necessary to ensure students successfully pass the AP CSP course.

- 9. The applicant will provide a way for students to take the AP CSP exam after course completion for free or at a reduced cost.

Summary of Program

Provide an overview of the program to be implemented with grant funds. Include the overall mission and specific needs of the organization. Describe how the program will address the mission and needs.

Comal ISD - Graduate Every Student Ready for Military, Career, and/or College.

The mission of Comal ISD's Advanced Academics is to work collaboratively with students, parents, community members, teachers, and administrators to design, guide, and supervise academically advanced programs that promote rigor, depth, and complexity. Advanced Academics ensures that all students in the district have access to a wide selection of challenging courses to enhance and broaden opportunities for future education and career options.

Comal ISD has an open enrollment policy for ALL AP Courses and encourages all academically prepared students to enroll in available AP courses to enhance their academic experience. These courses offer a high degree of rigor designed to prepare students for success in higher academic pursuits. Choosing to enroll in an AP course in Comal ISD is a mutual decision made by the student, parent and school. Each of these individuals is an important participant in this decision.

TEA Program Requirements

1. Identify and describe the explicit need for grant funds to support an AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) course. How will this grant build capacity for the LEA? How will the LEA prioritize marginalized students in receiving access to the AP CSP course offering?

The capacity for the LEA will be built by providing ongoing professional learning for all AP CSP teachers and support to mentor and coach teachers.

Currently, the LEA offers Fundamentals of CS at the 8th grade level. The Program of Study built out by the LEA begins with the fundamentals course and matriculates through five courses ending with Computer Science 2. Recruitment into this POS begins at the middle school level and continues through the high school level. To reach marginalized students, the campuses will promote the course through AVID courses and individual counseling. Middle and high school counselors, along with CS instructors, will assist in providing guidance for student interest. Current CS students will speak to students about the POS and course opportunity as part of the recruitment process.

The LEA currently has 8 teachers that teach AP CSP. Teachers will be added as needed based on student interest and course registration.

The LEA splits the cost of the AP exam with students to further assist marginalized students and provide access in receiving potential college credit with a passing exam score.

TEA Program Requirements Cont'd

2. Describe how the LEA will select teachers to receive professional development to teach an AP CSP course. How will the LEA select teachers and ensure teacher commitment? How will the LEA ensure teachers have all the tools necessary to teach the AP CSP course successfully? Include how many teachers the LEA needs to provide the AP CSP course.

The LEA has hired one teacher with a CS background. This teacher has the capacity to serve as the support mechanism for the teachers who have recently become certified to teach AP CSP.

All AP teachers in the district are required to attend summer AP Institutes. The LEA recommends that our AP teachers attend one every three years, but teachers are welcome to attend yearly. These trainings help to prepare teachers with content knowledge and instructional practices in project based learning skills. The goal is that the teacher becomes equipped to facilitate a learning environment for all students.

The College Board mentoring program will also be utilized as a support network for teachers, if grant is awarded.

The LEA is researching a professional development provider that offers support, especially for teachers who are new to the course. Experienced AP CSP teachers are an excellent resource so our goal will be to secure a provider that offers support through email, phone calls, virtual meetings, possible webinars, support videos, and just in time guidance.

Once a professional development provider is secured, the LEA will ensure that all teachers have access to learning materials and other support mechanisms.

3. The LEA will identify and select a professional development provider. Describe the nature of the LEA/provider relationship. Which vendor will be the professional development provider for the LEA? When and how will this training occur?

Our LEA has not selected a professional development provider as of yet. However, we will determine a provider during the planning year. A license for curriculum will also be purchased for the year.

The LEA is considering UTeach Computer Science as the professional development provider. UTeach Computer Science is a College Board endorsed professional development provider. They offer in person and online training for teachers that lasts approx. 35 hours. The LEA is in close proximity to the in person training, which is held at UT Austin. The online training provides opportunity to teachers who may not be able to attend in person. The training allows teachers to become familiar with the teacher materials and curriculum, collaboratively work on project based instructional strategies, and learn about the College Board Requirements for AP implementation.

The training cost for each teacher varies from \$1,000 - \$1,500, plus travel costs.

TEA Program Requirements Cont'd

4. Describe the course curriculum for classroom instruction. List any curriculum, technology, and/or equipment required for the course.

The LEA will select a comprehensive curriculum that includes a project based foundation. It will be important that the curriculum is endorsed by the College Board and will support students toward the goal of producing a positive outcome on the AP CSP exam.

The curriculum/support should include:

Comprehensive curriculum and teacher materials, including pacing guides and lesson plans

On demand support for teachers with experienced teachers offering the support

Virtual Workshops throughout the year

Access to a professional online learning community

All AP CSP teachers teach the course in a computer lab, accessible to all students.

5. Describe how students will be supported in selecting and succeeding in the AP CSP course. How does this course support the student's program of study or graduation plan? The LEA must include a plan for ensuring that students take and pass the AP CSP exam.

The AP CSP course will receive weighted rank, as part of the LEA GPA rank policy. The course currently supports CTE credit.

Student study sessions and AP tutorials will be available to students as they prepare for the AP Exam. Teachers will utilize formative assessments to determine individualized student needs/guidance and to help improve student understanding.

The AP CSP course is the 2nd course in a clearly defined and articulated program of study in the LEA.

The LEA strongly recommends that students enrolled in an AP course, take the AP exam at the end of the course.

Currently, the district boasts a 68% passing rate, higher than the state and global passing rates of 55.6% and 63.5%.

TEA Program Requirements Cont'd

6. Describe the course evaluation procedure and outline student success measures. Describe how the LEA will ensure successful grant administration by measuring the following metrics: (a) Increase in the number of CTE completers taking an AP course; (b) Increase in participation and/or performance of students taking and/or passing the AP CSP exam; and (c) Increase in number of special populations and non-traditional students enrolled in an AP CSP course.

Evaluation will be conducted on a yearly basis by school administration and counseling staffs, in conjunction with the AP CSP teacher to ensure student success. The LEA will also review student performance data in relation to course enrollment.

The goals of the LEA are to:

- Increase the number of students enrolling in the AP CSP course, including students in special populations and other non-traditionally enrolled students
- Increase the number of students opting to take the AP CSP exam
- Increase the number of students earning a 3,4, or 5 on the AP exam

The LEA will choose a curriculum provider that offers support, specific to the above goals.

7. Describe how the LEA plans to implement and sustain the AP CSP course at each campus and how the course will continued to be offered beyond the grant.

This grant will provide initial support to start professional learning work between the LEA and the chosen professional development provider.

Since Fundamentals of CS is offered to 8th graders at all 7 middle schools in the LEA, recruitment of cohorts of students will begin there. Students will be allowed to initiate the POS at any grade level at the high school campuses. The LEA will also ensure that campus leadership and administration are well versed on the course and POS available to all students. The AP CSP course will be discussed during parent and student recruitment events, in conjunction with information about all other AP courses available in the LEA.

The course will continued to be funded after grant expiration through budget funds.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Describe the major goals/objectives of the proposed program. What activities/strategies will be implemented to meet those goals/objectives?

The major goal of the program is to increase the number of students that enroll in AP CS Principles at each high school campus. A secondary goal would be to increase the number of students that successfully score a 3, 4, or 5 on AP CSP exam.

Similar to the responses in previous questions, a variety of strategies will be used to meet these goals:

- Continued open enrollment for all students to select AP courses, including AP CSP
- Student counseling via campus administration and counseling staffs on POS choices
- Parent/Student information events
- Student recruitment via current CS students

Budget Narrative

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.

Grant funds will be used for the following expenses:

- Teacher Training
- Curriculum, supplies, and materials to teach the AP CSP course
- In-state travel for training

When funds expire in 2024, the LEA will plan to budget for the expenses via the local budget. The professional development chosen will continue to be used and curriculum and teacher training will remain in place.

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