



**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="3"/>

Only 1 eligible campus per A. Keller 05.25 P.M.

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.

Wilson ISD's mission is to support Wilson schools by creating a culture of courtesy, accountability, respect, and excellence. WISD is dedicated to supporting our campus as we continue seeking improvement in building staff capacity, improving student growth, and increasing student achievement. In reviewing our 2019 ESF Diagnostic Needs Assessment, we believe that addressing Essential Actions (EA) 1.1 and (EA) 2.1 will build foundational capacity that will have strong impact on all aspects of our school improvement efforts. We will address these ESF Levers through high quality training followed by campus on-site individualized supports that will strengthen campus systems, build staff capacity, and ultimately improve student outcomes.

As a part of the ESF grant, we will support our campuses as they focus on Essential Actions (EA) 1.1: Develop campus instructional leaders (superintendent, principal, counselors, teacher leaders) with clear roles and responsibilities. Further, the ESF will support Essential Action (EA) 2.1: Effective, Well Supported Teachers: building the capacity of teachers so that all students have access to high-quality educators. WISD will partner with an External Vetted Improvement Program (VIP) who will support our development of clear roles and responsibilities for campus instructional leaders through instructional leadership team training, instructionally focused accountability training, and ongoing, applied professional development on our campus. A part-time instructional leader will be hired to provide continual support for teachers aligned to VIP's professional development model. Three campus lead teachers (elementary, middle school, and high school) will collaborate with WISD administration to help engage teachers in building staff capacity by implementing the VIP's PLC model. WISD also seeks to have our VIP provide leaders and teachers with ongoing, job-embedded, collaborative, student-centered professional learning that enables them to improve practice, grow in their leadership capacity, and meet their performance expectations. This includes training, modeling, and preparing teacher leaders to lead collaborative learning sessions through Professional Learning Communities (PLC). PLC supports would provide ongoing, applied professional development for all teachers. Our selected VIP is able to provide and support the implementation of a system for observing and providing feedback to teachers and leaders that honors and rewards them for how well they teach their students and improve their practice. This allows WISD to monitor the improvement and accomplishments of our teachers and leaders relative to their individual goals

The web-based improvement plan will be developed to allow WISD to identify and track the needs of each campus aligned to EA 1.1 and EA 2.1. The improvement plan will allow the VIP on campus to implement the program provided by the VIP and monitor campus growth in relation to ESF for EA 1.1 and 2.1. The Educational Specialist will collect, analyze, monitor, and guide leadership team's implementation of the web-based improvement plan with a focus on special populations.

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.

Wilson ISD will monitor ESF-Focused Support Grant funds through leveraging the web-based platform, and working with our VIP to determine how each campus is progressing within the success criteria for Essential Action (EA) 1.1 and 2.1 throughout implementation. Further, our Educational Specialist will help WISD analyze each campus data on a quarterly basis and guide adjustments according to EA 1.1 and 2.1. Our part-time campus instructional leader will use consistent, written protocols and processes to lead their department and grade-level teams. Three campus lead teachers (elementary, middle school, and high school) will implement targeted and personalized strategies to support and retain staff. The Educational Specialist will help align best-practices within clearly expressed policies that will be implemented by WISD Leadership Team via systemic protocols. Based on our initial ESF diagnostic, we have developed a plan for the scope of work for each campus. We will use the web based improvement plan to document clear, cyclical assessment points with the VIP to inform additional actions that may need to be taken if implementation is unsuccessful. Additional needed actions will be implemented as needed to improve student achievement.

We will use the ESF success criteria to determine the metrics by which we assess the success of the program and to determine potential adjustments. We have planned for built-in continuous supports from our VIP in year 2 that will be based on an ESF-Focused Support Grant outcomes review at the end of year 1. These continued supports could include further training for identified groups, including staff new to the district in year 2, on-site coaching and supports based on identified needs, and revising campus goals based on progress.

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.

WISD will enable the full and effective implementation of Essential Actions (EA) 1.1 and 2.1 by providing operational flexibility to Wilson schools. WISD will ensure that practices are aligned to local policies to maximize the implementation of the ESF Essential Actions web-based improvement plan. The work entails creating new pathways and modifications alongside our selected VIP within Wilson schools. This will enable Wilson schools to fully implement the ESF Essential Actions aligned web-based improvement plan.

WISD schools will modify their school and employee calendars as needed to accommodate additional days of professional learning required to meet the goals of EA 1.1 and 2.1. This will include integrating the ESF-Focused Web-based Improvement Plan as the standing improvement plan for Wilson ISD.

WISD will also provide flexibility within the school's policies for PLCs , observations, and feedback cycles to ensure policies support the VIP's programming, The WISD Leadership Team including the campus instructional leaders and campus lead teachers will support daily lesson plans that include clear objectives, opening activities, time allotments that indicate the amount of time spent on each step of the lesson, multiple, and differentiated paths of instruction. The Educational Specialist will help WISD gather the data and evaluate the effectiveness of the VIP's program based on student achievement results. These supports will help to ensure that Wilson meets the highest expectations for maximizing student achievement.

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.

The proposed budget includes procuring a contract for National Institute for Excellence in Teaching's (NIET) System for Teacher and Student Advancement (TAP System). WISD selected TAP because it is a comprehensive capacity building model. TAP focuses on creating school and district structures for building educator capacity to increase student achievement and is backed by more than 20 years of research. TAP on-site support will be crucial to effective implementation and support throughout the life of the grant. This would include direct professional learning services, support for implementation of enabling structures (e.g., PLC, ILT, Coaching, Feedback and Evaluation Cycles, Lesson Planning Structures etc.), as well as coaching and consultancy services to allow us to get ongoing support. Using the TAP system will empower us to meet the overall goals of our ESF Focused Support Grant Program by providing scaffolded supports that will sustain Essential Action (EA) 1.1 and 2.1 after the two years of funding is complete. In addition, the proposed budget includes funding for a part-time campus instructional leader, stipends for three campus lead teachers, and support from the Educational Specialist to support EA 1.1 and 2.1.

WISD does not have this level of ongoing support at this time so these funds will be used to supplement school improvement efforts with additional services that will make a difference in acceleration of improvement. Contracted services funds will be allocated to research-based professional development that will be provided through initial training days, and continue via ongoing, on-campus coaching surrounding EA 1.1 and 2.1. Professional development training provided through our contract with NIET will include Instructional Focused Accountability Training that will prepare our staff to develop clear, written, and transparent roles and responsibilities. Further, Wilson schools will schedule core leadership tasks on weekly calendars (observations, debriefs, team meetings) and ensure that performance expectations are clear, written, measurable, and match the job responsibilities. Additionally, VIP will train campus leaders to use consistent, written protocols and processes to lead their department, grade-level teams, or other areas of responsibility in order to create campus protocols that empower campus instructional leaders. The ongoing support will include weekly meetings designed to focus on planning instruction based on student progress and formative data. Lastly, Wilson schools and the VIP will work together to build principal capacity to improve campus leaders through regularly scheduled, job-embedded professional development consistent with best practices for adult learning, deliberate modeling, observations, and feedback cycles.

Through leadership team training, professional learning community training, and ongoing coaching supports, WISD will ensure campus leadership retains effective, well-supported teachers by strategically recruiting, selecting, assigning, and building the capacity of teachers so that all students have access to high-quality educators. Ongoing Applied Professional Development through on-site monitoring/coaching days will be planned with our VIP and Campus Instructional Leadership Teams. Job embedded professional development will be implemented collaboratively according to data generated at the campus level so that educators have ownership in the selected Essential Actions for sustainability and capacity building.

Contracted services will include:

1. Instructional Focused Accountability Coaching - 15 days of training around effective implementation of a valid and reliable appraisal and observation system for district leaders and school administrators including feedback cycles and calibration supports, followed by campus evaluator coaching and co-observation each semester.
2. Instructional Leadership Team Training - 5 days of training in which educators will reflect on the actions of highly effective administrators and develop their own skills to ensure instructional leadership team members and ILT meetings impact teaching and learning.
3. Professional Learning Communities Training for all administrators and teacher leaders - 2 days of training in structures that support adult learning and planning and implementing PLC structures for Wilson educators. The focus for PLC will be ongoing, applied professional development surrounding student and individual teacher growth goals based on data.

PD sessions will include monthly on-site coaching days from NIET and Educational Specialist progress monitoring.

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.

WISD will utilize federal, state, and local resources to supplement the ESF Essential Action (EA) 1.1 and 2.1 activities and 4.1 High-Quality Curriculum. Based on the ESF Summary Diagnostic Tool conducted in 2019, aside from EA 1.1 and 2.1, 4.1 was also identified as a focus-area of need. WISD will utilize federal, state, and local resources to support high fidelity of curriculum implementation via EA 1.1 and 2.1. Further, state and federal funds will be utilized to ensure instructional materials include resources that are intentionally designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities and English learners.

Local resources will support the alignment of scope and sequence, units, and assessments to the standards for all tested subject and grade areas, and grades PK-2nd for mathematics and reading. Additionally, these local funds will work in conjunction with grant funds to maximize the collaborative efforts for the implementation of EA 1.1 and 2.1 by allocating that time for corrective instruction is built into the scope and sequence.

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	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>

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