TEXAS Health and Human Services | Texas Department of State Health Services

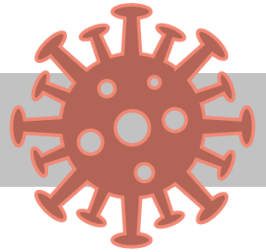
TEA Texas Education Agency

SY 21-22 COVID-19 School Health Support Grant (Grants to Schools)

September 20 & 21, 2021

Webinar Norms & Reminders

- Use the **Q & A** feature at the bottom of your screen to ask questions throughout the presentation.
- We will have a **Q & A segment** at the end of the webinar to address as many questions in the chat as we can. Any questions not answered will be answered later via our FAQ and/or via email.
- This session is intended to cover the ***2021-2022 K-12 COVID-19 Grants to Schools Program***
- A recording of the webinar will be provided after the second webinar is completed by Thursday, September 23 at close of business.
- Those public and private school districts if you are listed in this **spreadsheet** are temporarily supported by TEA through November 15th but are considered part of the Houston Health District CDC grant. As such, these districts are not eligible for the Grants to Schools program **at this time.**



Disclaimer

This presentation is intended solely to provide general information and guidance to Texas LEAs and reflects the Texas Education Agency's current understanding of the presentation topics and applicable federal guidance. The content of this presentation is subject to change as a result of further potential information and guidance provided by federal agencies with regulatory oversight of these program(s).

This presentation does not constitute legal advice, and LEAs are, therefore, advised to seek legal counsel regarding the information and guidance provided in this presentation before acting on such information and guidance.

Agenda

- Session Norms & Reminders
- Accessing Session Materials
- Grants to Schools Background
- Eligibility Requirements & Considerations
- Funding & Allocations
- Allowable Activities
- Grant Application
- Reporting & Compliance Monitoring
- Resources
- Q & A

Accessing Session Materials

K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project

FAQ and Guidance

- SY 21-22 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project High-Level One Pager (PDF) September 9 2021
- SY 21-22 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project Presentation (PDF) September 16 2021
- SY 21-22 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project FAQ (PDF) September 16 2021
- SY 2021-2022 K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program Eligibility Requirements (PDF) September 16 2021

Tools, Templates and Resources

- Webinar
  - Recording from the September 10th and 14th **testing** webinars
  - Register to attend the **grant** overview webinar on Monday, September 20th (10:00-11:00)
  - Register to attend the **grant** overview webinar on Tuesday September 21st(1:00-2:00)
  - Register to attend the **testing vendor** Achieve Health Management webinar on Monday, September 20th (1:00-2:00)
  - Register to attend the **testing vendor** Thermo Fisher Scientific webinar on Tuesday, September 21st (3:00-3:45)
  - Register to attend the **testing vendor** SDI Labs webinar on Wednesday, September 22nd (1:00-2:00)
  - Register to attend the **testing vendor** Quest Diagnostics webinar – on September 22nd (10:00-11:00)
  - Register to attend the **federal program provider** Affinity Empowering webinar on Wednesday, September 20nd (11:00-12:00)
- Test Report Form – coming soon the week of September 20th!
- Public and Private School System Opt-In Application September 9 2021
  - This application should only be filled out by public and private school systems that are NOT currently enrolled in the state's testing program
- K-12 Public School Current Opt in List and Test Allocation Spreadsheet (PDF) September 17 2021
- Vendor Resource Sheet (excel) September 16 2021
- School Systems Supported by the City of Houston COVID-19 Testing Program (excel) September 9 2021
- K-12 Private School Allocation List (PDF) September 17 2021

https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/covid-19-support-public-health-orders#project

Background

Federal Dollars to Support Schools

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** will invest $10 billion from the American Rescue Plan to states to enable schools to establish COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning.

Texas received a total $800 million, and the dollars flow to the state health department to administer.

- Within the $800 million, **$221 million in grant funding will be allocated for eligible public & private school systems** available for them to apply for and use for several allowable expenses, including additional services and/or products in testing, ventilation, and vaccination access.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and TEA have partnered together to make these resources available to public and private K-12 systems in Texas.

Link: https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/03/17/biden-administration-invest-more-than-12-billion-expand-covid-19-testing.html?utm_source=salesforce&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=press-release-email&utm_content=march-17-2021

SY 21-22 COVID-19 Testing Project Goals

Goal of the Testing Project ($800m)

Provide needed resources to implement COVID testing programs and support for related prevention strategies in all K-12 public and private schools

Goal of the Grants to School Program ($221m)

Provide eligible K-12 public and private schools with access to needed funds **to further** support COVID mitigation/prevention resources and activities

Eligibility Requirements & Considerations

Eligibility Requirements

	Eligible to Apply for Funds	Ineligible to Apply for Funds
Public School Districts	• Public K-12 school systems in Texas who are interested in accessing funds to assist their schools with COVID mitigation resources/activities in addition to testing resources. • If you offer Pre-K and those students share a building/co-mingle with K-12 students then you ARE eligible to apply for funds.	• **Any public or private school** on the City of Houston list is NOT eligible to apply to the Grants to Schools program. Although TEA will be supporting those school systems with the COVID tests through vendors until Nov. 15th. • Pre-K only providers and/or daycare providers are NOT eligible to apply for access to these specific funds. • ***Special note: If a private school system applies and accepts these grant funds, they may become a recipient of federal assistance, making them subject to specific federal requirements.***
Private School Systems	• Private K-12 school systems in Texas who are interested in accessing funds to assist their schools with COVID mitigation resources/activities in addition to testing resources. • If you offer Pre-K and those students share a building/co-mingle with K-12 students then you ARE eligible to apply for funds.	

Funding & Allocations

Funding & Allocations

- We are currently internally working to finalize the application process for K-12 public and private school systems, **including the allocation amounts**.

- We anticipate posting the final application with details on the **TEA Grant Opportunities Page** by mid-October or later in the Fall.

Allowable Activities

Allowable Activities-Overview

1. PPE (including but not limited to masks, gloves, gowns, & face shields);
2. Hygiene and cleaning supplies;
3. Portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation;
4. Public health events that include students and other community members and are aimed at providing opportunities for increased detection and prevention of COVID-19;
5. Vaccine promotion events and communications;
6. COVID-19 testing-test kits, turn-key testing services, and related support services;
7. Costs to obtain a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver;
8. Partial funding for staff who will be conducting grant-related duties for screening testing or COVID prevention programs that are outside of the staff's regular duties; and
9. Other allowable uses pre-approved by TEA grant program office

Allowable Activities- Details

The financial resources provided are required, by law, to support school-based screening testing activities intended to support open, in person K-12 school environments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, these resources may be used to support items or activities aimed at implementation of prevention strategies necessary to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Recipients should review the updated Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools and consider requesting the following when revising their *ELC Reopening Schools* budgets:

1. Personnel (term, temporary, students, overtime, contract staff, etc.).
2. Laboratory equipment used for COVID-19 testing and necessary maintenance contracts.
3. Collection supplies, test kits, reagents, consumables, and other necessary supplies for existing testing (screening or diagnostic) or onboarding new platforms to support thistesting.
4. Personal Protective Equipment Please see the most current CDC guidance for details (Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools).
5. Hygiene and cleaning supplies.
6. Hardware and software necessary for reporting to public health and communication and coordination of follow up on any positive cases detected.
7. Tools that assist in the rapid identification, electronic reporting, monitoring, analysis, and evaluation of control measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, that may be translatable to other diseases (e.g., GIS software, visualization dashboards, cloud services).
8. Contracts with academic institutions, private laboratories, other non-commercial healthcare entities, and/or commercial entities that may provide all or part of the screening testing needs. This may include contracts with companies that offer comprehensive support for screening testing in K-12 (e.g., sample collection, screening testing, and reporting).

https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf

Allowable Activities- Details

9. Software or systems to assist with laboratory resource management (e.g., software for inventory management, temperature notifications, etc.), quality management, biosafety, or training needs.
10. Leasing/purchasing vehicles (e.g., mobile screening testing, providing K-12 screening testing services in underserved areas, etc.). Note: Recipients will need to submit quotes with their revised budgets and receive prior approval from the Office of Grant Services (OGS). If need arises before or after the revised Notice of Grant Award (NOA) is issued, requests for leasing/purchasing must be made through GrantSolutions and include the necessary quotes.
11. Portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation
12. Public health events that include students and other community members and are aimed at providing opportunities for increased detection and prevention of COVID-19. *Please note that promotion of vaccination may be considered a prevention strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19; however, recipients are asked to coordinate these activities between ELC and Immunization staff within the jurisdiction. Additionally, coordination with ELC Project Officer and Immunization Project Officer is crucial to ensure there is not duplication between the two sources of financial support.*
13. Program incentives may be considered to encourage individuals to participate in screening testing. Recipients interested in exploring this option must submit a plan that covers all of the following elements: (a) justification, (b) cost savings [e.g., how it will defray costs or have a positive return on investment], (c) defined amount (not to exceed $25 per instance), (d) qualifications for issuance, and (e) method of tracking. When submitting the revised budget within 60 days of award issuance, the program incentive plan must be included in the 'budget justification' section of the ELC budget workbook and receive CDC approval before implementation. After the revised NOA is issued, any subsequent requests for using funds to support program incentives must be made in GrantSolutions, including the program incentive plan, and must receive CDC approval before implementation.

https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf

Allowable Activities- Details

14. Wrap-around (e.g., hoteling, food, laundry, mental health services, etc.) services for those who test positive.
15. Expenses associated with outreach and assistance (e.g., support provided through community-based organizations).
16. Costs associated with transporting individuals to get tested.
17. Expenses associated with technical assistance to establish school-based screening testing programs (NGOs, academic institutions, foundations, etc.).
18. ELC Reopening Schools funds can be used to cover screening and diagnostic testing costs (e.g., administration, etc.) fully. Recipients should follow all appropriate federal laws and regulations pertaining to testing reimbursements, including assuring that charges are not covered both by ELC funds and other reimbursement sources.
19. Testing events that may also involve other mitigation activities (e.g., promotion of vaccination) to limit the spread of COVID-19.
20. The promotion vaccinations when characterized as a mitigation strategy to prevent widespread COVID-19 within the school and the community.
21. Costs related to prevention may also include portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation.

The above list covers the anticipated, most relevant costs associated with achieving the activities in this guidance.

https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf

Grant Application

Application Process

- TEA is currently internally working to develop an application for eligible K-12 public and private schools.

- **K-12 Public School Systems -** Plan to apply through the **eGrants** website (similar to the ESSER grant)

- **K-12 Private School Systems -** TEA is still determining your grant application format, which will be in one of the following formats:
  - PDF
  - Separate online form
  - Via eGrants

Additional Details

- Pre-award is available back to May 1, 2021.
- We anticipate the final application being posted by mid-October or later in the Fall.

Reporting & Compliance Monitoring

Reporting Requirements

- Recipients of the Grants to Schools' funds will be required to submit fiscal reports as **outlined by the CDC.**
  - Potentially including but not limited to submitting a K-12 plan that details strategies used to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations in schools as community transmission and/or vaccination rates change.

https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf

Working with Outside Vendors

2021-2022 School Year COVID-19 Testing Vendors

Vendor	SDI Labs	Achieve Health Management (AHM)	Thermo Fisher Scientific (TFS)	Quest Diagnostics	Affinity Empowering
Test Administration	Self-Administered (Rapid Antigen) or School Personnel	School Personnel or AHM Staff	School Personnel or TFS Staff	School Personnel or Quest Staff	Self-Administered or School Personnel
Scheduling for Turnkey option	N/A	Coordination with AHM	Coordination with TFS	Done through an online portal	NO
Training Provided to School Staff	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Reference Materials for School Personnel		YES	YES	YES	YES
Electronic Registration	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Electronic Form Review/Signature by Parent/Guardian	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Translation of Materials	"Major langauges"	Spanish	Spanish (other language can be discussed)	24 different languages for paper consent form, 100 languages for electronic consent process	Spanish
Support Team Availability	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Reporting Dashboards	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Rapid Antigen Test	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Rapid AntigenTime to results	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes	N/A
Rapid Antigen Test Brand	SDI Rapid Antigen: $8.49 per test Abbott BinaxNOW: $9.99 per test	Abbott BinaxNOW: $7.50 per test GenBody: $7.50 per test	Abbott BinaxNOW: $20.00 per test Quidel Sofia: $20.00 per test BD Veritor: $20.00 per test	CareStart: $19.00 per test	N/A
Rapid Antigen Test Collection Method	Anterior Nasal	Anterior Nasal for Abbott BinaxNOW; Nasopharyngeal for GenBody	Anterior Nasal	Anterior Nasal	N/A
PCR Test	YES Real Time PCR with Mobile Lab: $49.00 per test Individual: $49.00 per test Pooled (up to 5): $20.99 per tube	YES Real Time PCR: $80.00 per test	YES Individual PCR: $48.00 per test Pooled (up to 6): $60.00 per tube Plus a one-time fee of $10.00 per participant	YES Individual PCR: $100 per test Pooled (5 to 25): $150 per tube	YES Individual PCR: $0 per test Pooled: $0 per tube
PCR Time to results	24-48 hours	Within 48 hours of receipt of specimens by lab	24-48 hours	less than 48 hours; 24 hours for pooled test results	24-48 hours
PCR Collection Method	Anterior Nasal	Anterior Nasal	Anterior Nasal	Anterior Nasal	Anterior Nasal
Testing Methodology	Individual or pooled (up to 5)	Individual	Individual or pooled (up to 6)	Individual or pooled (up to 10)	Pooled (5 to 24)
NOTE	Guardian or student (of 13 years or older) needs to fill out an intake questionnaire providing current health condition, any new symptoms, and demographics the day before testing.	Requires 30 day estimate of testing volume to procure the necessary volume of materials and labor; requires mandatory kick-off meeting with school implementation leaders	Time from Initial Contact to Begin Testing is 5 to 10 days		7-10 day start-up
Additional Notes		See attachement for school requirements	On site staffing for specimen collection: $70 per hours/per person/minimum 4 hours	On site staffing for specimen collection: $100 per hour/per person/minimum 6 hours	Two test swabs will be collected from every individual tested. All swabs will be run through pooled testing first. If pooled testing returns a positive, then the second swab will be run to identify the positive individual(s)
Contact Information	Andrew Valencia 877-509-0376; 909-438-1882 andrew@sdilabsinc.com	Jeff Williams 760-331-3825 jwilliams@achievehealthmanagement.com	Mackenzie Varga 412-488-2252 mackenzie.varga@thermofisher.com	https://regional.questdiagnostics.com/texas_k12	https://www.affinitytesting.com/hhs/OperationExpandedTesting@affinityempowering.com or mfrank@affinityempowering.com 844-631-0469/713-254-7640

We are in conversations with the federal grant funders to determine if school systems can use these grant dollars to work with vendors they have previously and/or are currently working with outside of those listed on the **vendor resource sheet**. This option will require additional reporting-more details to come.

Learn More: Webinar for each vendor

Affinity Empowering
Monday, September 20th
11:00-12:00 a.m.
Register to attend

Achieve Health Management
Monday, September 20th
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Register to attend

Thermo Fisher Scientific
Tuesday, September 21st
3:00-3:45 p.m.
Register to attend

Quest
Wednesday, September 22nd
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Register to attend

SDI Labs
Wednesday, September 22nd
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Register to attend

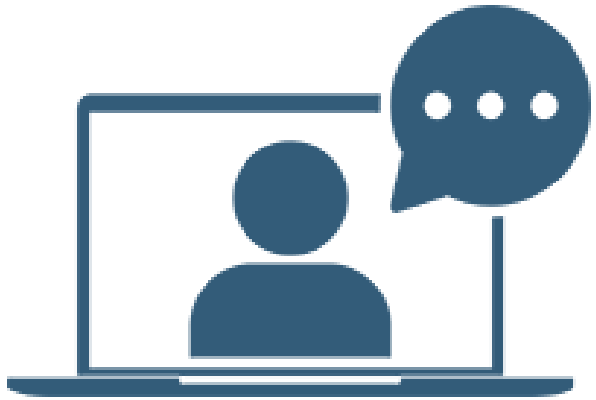
https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/covid/covid-19-support-public-health-orders#project

Resources

For More Information

Agency:	Type of Questions:	Contact:
TEA Texas Education Agency	▪ Grant questions ▪ Best practices on how to use tests in a school setting ▪ Public Health Guidance interplay with testing program ▪ Test Coordinator Support	COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov
TEXAS Health and Human Services Texas Department of State Health Services	▪ Questions or concerns about the testing vendors, including responsiveness, delivery, and reporting of results	TCECSupport@dshs.texas.gov

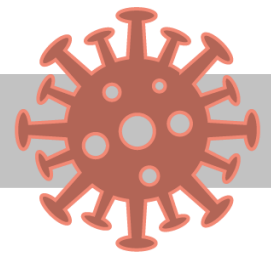
Learn More: Webinar about the grant



Monday, September 20th
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Register to attend

Tuesday, September 21st
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Register to attend

Both webinars cover the same information! A recording of the webinar will be provided on the TEA K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project website once the second webinar is complete.



Available Resources & Support Materials

On TEA's Coronavirus Website:

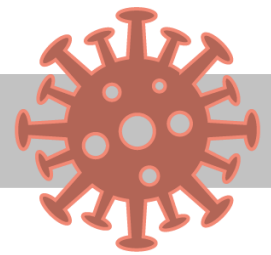
- COVID Testing Project Playbook
- Vendor Resource Sheet
- List of opted in public and private school systems and allocation amounts
- Application for new school systems to opt in
- FAQ
- To the Administrator Addressed (TAA)
- Test Reporting Form – coming soon!

3rd Party Available Resources & Support Materials

Overview/General Guidance of the ELC Grant from the federal government:
https://www.openandsafeschools.org/

When to Test Calculator
https://whentotest.org/

CDC COVID-19 School Testing Toolkit



Required Notice

This K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project is supported by the CDC of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $800m with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the Center for Disease Control Website.

Q & A