2021-2022 Texas Reading Initiative - Literacy Coaching and Professional Development Grades K-5

Competitive Grant Application: Due 11:59 p.m. CT, June 28, 2021

NOGA ID		Application stamp-in date and time

TEA will only accept grant application documents by email, including competitive grant applications and amendments. Submit grant applications and amendments as follows:

Competitive grant applications and amendments to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov

Authorizing legislation: U.S. Code Title 20 Chapter 70 Subchapter II Part B Subpart 2 6642

Grant period: From **09/24/2021** to **09/30/2022**   **Pre-award costs:** ARE/**ARE NOT** permitted for this grant

Required attachments: Refer to the program guidelines for a description of any required attachments.

Amendment Number

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

1. Applicant Information

Name of organization **Brownsville ISD**

Campus name   CDN **031901** Vendor ID **746000418** ESC **1** DUNS **030917579**

Address **1900 Price Road**   City **Brownsville**   ZIP **78521**   Phone **956-548-8227**

Primary Contact **Dr. Dora E. Sauceda** Email **drdesauceda@bisd.us**   Phone **956-698-2091**

Secondary Contact **Dr. Anysia Trevino** Email **dratrevino@bisd.us**   Phone **956-547-4113**

2. 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 grant application, as applicable, and that these documents are incorporated by reference as part of the grant application and Notice of Grant Award (NOGA):

☒ Grant application, guidelines, and instructions   ☒ Debarment and Suspension Certification
☒ General Provisions and Assurances   ☒ Lobbying Certification
☒ Application-Specific Provisions and Assurances   ☒ ESSA Provisions and Assurances requirements

Authorized Official Name **Dr. René Gutiérrez**   Title **Superintendent**   Email **rene.gutierrez@bisd.us**

Phone **956-548-8011** Signature **Dr. Rene Gutierrez** Digitally signed by Dr. Rene Gutierrez DN: cn=Dr. Rene Gutierrez, o=Brownsville ISD, ou, email=rene.gutierrez@bisd.us, c=US Date: 2021.06.24 18:34:36 -05'00'   Date

Grant Writer Name **Edwin Barrera**   Signature **Edwin Barrera** Digitally signed by Edwin Barrera Date: 2021.06.24 11:19:47 -05'00' Date

◉ Grant writer **is** an employee of the applicant organization.   ○ Grant writer is **not** an employee of the applicant organization.

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3. Shared Services Arrangements

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

4. Identify/Address Needs

List up to three quantifiable needs, as identified in your needs assessment, that these program funds will address. Describe your plan for addressing each need.

Quantifiable Need	Plan for Addressing Need
BISD is the largest poverty district in Texas serving 43,000 students at 95.8% economically disadvantaged. BISD has the HIGHEST poverty rate in Texas (<46,000 pops.) and 5th highest in the nation. All BISD students qualify for FREE and REDUCED Lunch rates (FRLR).	BISD created the LISTO (Literacy Innovations for Successful Teaching Opportunities) Conferences for 3 years to address the K-5 challenges associated with working with a large Hispanic economically disadvantaged geographical area. BISD must address the influx of large immigrant families with little to no educational framework for success. 200 teachers from 34 schools will be selected.
BISD has a high Hispanic (98.3%) student pop, At risk of educational failure (68%), students living in poverty (95.8%), English Learners (36.1%), students with disabilities (14.1%) and not finishing college (96%).	Grant addresses relevant Conferences: Year 1: Conference Post-Pandemic Literacy: Teaching Students with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Learning Loss Year 2: Comprehensive Family Literacy and Reading Through Super Libraries Year 3: Hispanic Literacy Conference: Spark Curiosity, Ignite Potential.
BISD serves 18,860 students in grade 6-12. Residents are below poverty doubling state's average. Median Income is 63.7% less than state. STAAR performance rate at Masters Grade Level at a range of 5-20% lower passing rate than the state or region white students.	BISD will address that the content of literacy conferences will focus on knowledge-building curriculum, and that BISD has successful experience and expertise in implementation of a knowledge-building program (Appendix). The PD Dept had 2,455 total workshops with 165,487 participants for 2020-21 and ISET Conference.

5. SMART Goal

Describe the summative SMART goal you have identified for this program (a goal that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely), either related to student outcome or consistent with the purpose of the grant.

At the end of every grant year, BISD will host a full day Conference for 200 K-5 teachers from 34 High Needs Elementary schools in Year 1. The conference titled, 'Post-Pandemic Literacy: Teaching Students with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Learning Loss' will positively impact 90% of the participants using a survey and evaluation scale. Teachers will experience new strategies to help the Covid Learning Slide and foster healthy ways to implement remote learning strategies for the home and school environment. A futuristic Literacy World will allow teachers face to face presentations, global remote learning experiences, hands on workshops with modern technology for literacy improvements that focus on knowledge-building curriculum aligned to state standards.

6. Measurable Progress

Identify the benchmarks that you will use at the end of the first three grant quarters to measure progress toward meeting the process and implementation goals defined for the grant.

First-Quarter Benchmark

First Quarter Benchmark (4 months) September 2021-January 2022
• Benchmark 1: The assigned administrator (Maria V. Gonzalez with 42 years of Literacy Experience) will setup monthly meetings with leadership team and coordinate process for the planning phase of the grant. A key component in the planning stage is all stakeholders. A BOY, MOY and EOY will be setup to gauge Literacy Need.
• Benchmark 2: Administrator will setup all budget line items with the Finance office, and initiate the grant startup process for BISD in order to meet all goals and objectives.
• Benchmark 3: Administrator will target 200 K-5 teachers who teach economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, English Learners.

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6. Measurable Progress (Cont.)

Second-Quarter Benchmark

Second Quarter Benchmark (4months) February 2022- June 2022
• Benchmark 1: BISD Leadership Team will start the recruitment process for 7 conference speakers, 5 In-kind regional support.
•Benchmark 2:The grant director will meet with stakeholders to discuss existing barriers and meet with teachers, as needed, and/or district administrator to discuss barriers a student is experiencing and develop an action plan.
• Benchmark 3: : Secure location for the LISTO Conference.
• Benchmark 4: BISD Leadership Team will meet will all speaker to finalize all details.
• Benchmark 5: BISD Leadership Team will purchase all materials needed for the LISTO Conference.

Third-Quarter Benchmark

Third Quarter Benchmark July 2022-September 30, 2022
• Benchmark 1: BISD Leadership Team create a workshop on the BISD professional system so that all participants may register Online.
• Benchmark 2: LISTO Conference to be held in August.
• Benchmark 3: All participants will receive an Online survey to evaluate the LISTO Conference.
Benchmark 3: Survey and Evaluation Feedback will beu sed for conference refinements and adjustments to meet goals and objectives of the grant.

7. Project Evaluation and Modification

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks or summative SMART goals do not show progress, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

BISD Grants department utilizing Edwin Barrera, BISD Grant Specialist, with 30 years of grant experience evaluating and implementing both federal and state grants, will ensure that evaluation data will be used to determine when to modify the project plan, including, if quarterly progress or summative SMART goals do not show progress. The proposal also includes but is not limited to consistent, collection of data that measures progress to stated benchmark goals and process of data analysis and related programmatic adjustments. 2021-2022 Texas Reading Initiative - Literacy Coaching and Professional Development Grades K-5 data will be aligned to benchmarks and metrics in prior section. In order to ensure project's success, careful monitoring will be in place to evaluate and ensure participants are meeting benchmark goals. The goal of BISD is to improve long term literacy. The current percent of AA degrees of HS BISD graduates is 0% compared to the Region at 5% and to the state standard of 2% for all of the seven BISD High Schools (2019-20 TAPR).
PROGRAM MODIFICATION- The grant will meet with stakeholders to discuss existing barriers and meet with teachers, as needed, and/or district administrator to discuss barriers a student is experiencing and develop an action plan. Participants not meeting the intervention standards will receive additional support and development opportunities in the areas of need, informal or format intervention plan, and/or additional opportunities for continued professional development.
PROGRAM FEEDBACK-A survey will be administered to students, teachers, literacy coaches, and district contacts every 6 months. All stakeholders will provide feedback regarding the experience with the program, provide information regarding additional assistance/support needed in order for the students to succeed and have the opportunity to provide feedback on how to improve the services. Careful analysis of data provided through these surveys will be conducted. Additional support and training will be provided through round-table meetings and/or professional development. The BISD Leadership Design Team (LDT) will meet monthly to ensure the Reading Conference Framework is being developed on schedule.

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8. Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee 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 grant 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 that all literacy coaches have or are currently completing the required HB 3 Reading Academies.

☐ 4. The applicant provides assurance that the placement of literacy coaches ensures they are supported with verifiable capacity via internal resources or external partnerships.

☐ 5. The applicant provides assurance that each coach will support at least 60 teachers annually if not supporting QOZ or at least 30 teachers annually if supporting QOZ through a mix of in-person and on-line coaching.

☒ 6. (For literacy conferences) The applicant provides assurance that the content of hosted literacy conferences will focus on knowledge-building curriculum, and that the applicant has experience and expertise in implementation of a knowledge-building program.

9. Statutory/Program Requirements

Please select the type of opportunity being applied for. Select one or both of the following:

☐ **Check this box if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity**

☒ **Check this box if applying for the regional literacy conferences opportunity**

1. Describe how the school, the local educational agency, or a provider of high-quality professional development will provide ongoing high-quality professional development to all teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel (as appropriate), and other instructional leaders served by the school. (Applies to both opportunities)

BISD provides high-quality professional development yearly for ongoing high-quality professional development to all teachers, principals, other school leaders and specialized instructional support personnel. The Professional Development had 2,455 total workshops with 165,487 participants for 2020-21. Approximately 97,309 participated in an all day session (8:00 am-5:00 pm) such as a conference timeline indicating that BISD will have a tremendous turnout at these conferences with 397 workshops occurring in June and 298 in August. The top 12 Professional Development workshops includes: CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT (842 Workshops), PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (603), BILINGUAL DEPARTMENT (258), SPECIAL SERVICES (154), COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS (83), DYSLEXIA PROGRAM (70), RESEARCH/EVALUATION (55), CAREER & TECHNOLOGY (52), AREA ADMINISTRATOR (51), GUIDANCE & COUNSELING (40), COMPUTER SERVICES (37), HEALTH SERVICES (32), SPECIAL PROGRAMS (30). BISD also offers Online, face to face and after school sessions. The Annual Innovation Strategy and Educational Technology (ISET) Bash draws in 300 conference attenders every year with 30 different workshops (See Appendix A-ISET Conference Program Booklet and Evaluation). BISD will partner with Texas Southmost College and utilize their ITEC Mall Facility to maximize the higher education partnership for a higher quality conference.

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

2. Describe how the applicant will identify children in need of literacy interventions or other support services. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

N/A

3. Explain how the applicant will integrate comprehensive literacy instruction into a well-rounded education. (Applies to both opportunities)

LITERACY STRATEGIES- BISD will develop NEW strategies and literacy services to better integrate comprehensive literacy instruction into a well-rounded education. This includes involving multiple stakeholders (parents, teachers, counselors, community members, colleges, etc.) to strengthen both the academic and social/emotional skills and support necessary for literacy and college readiness. BISD will provide both academic and social/emotional support for students to be successful in rigorous academic and literacy experiences. BISD provides wrap-around strategies and services as well as the additional literacy strategies and services that are planned in the Literacy Conference. The Conference will focus on the literacy needs but also on college success as BISD is lagging behind the region on AA attainment. BISD has 0% of the students earning a AA along with a HS diploma as compared to the region percentage of 5% and the state of 2%. BISD students also matriculate primarily to the closest community college which has a low retention rate of 65% from freshmen to sophomore year. LISTOS, Spanish for ready, will address not just K-12 challenges but the challenges of having these students complete a postsecondary education.

4. Describe how the applicant will coordinate comprehensive literacy instruction with early childhood education programs and activities and after-school programs and activities in the area served by the local educational agency. (Applies to both opportunities)

BISD will coordinate comprehensive literacy instruction with early childhood education programs such as Head Start, Reach Out and Read Programs, after-school programs such as 21st CCLC Grants or ACE (Afterschool Centers on Education) and Extended Learning to include ADSY (Additional Days School Year)activities in the area served by BISD. Reach Out and Read is a partner with the Innovation Approaches to Literacy (IAL) grant that BISD has been awarded by ED. They will also host a workshop for promoting Early Literacy through working with doctor and clinics for family literacy even before children show up to school. In addition, Community in Schools will host a workshop on how to help poor families with holistic services to include drop out prevention strategies, signs of mental health issues and home literacy. The Parent Department will also host a Table for addressing the needs of illiterate parents and the adult continuing education programs available in our service areas. Foremost, BISD is in partnership with the City of Brownsville (COB) aligning the library services to meet the demands of the 21st century. Each library has been remodeled with maker-spaces, cafes, kivas and modern furniture for all 53 schools. BISD is also working the Ministerial and Business Alliance (MBA) to promote partnerships for adopting schools from organizations near or in relationship with the schools. The MBA will help meet the needs of literacy, college readiness and poverty needs with resources and services not easily available to schools at no cost to the district.

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

5. Provide proof or a plan on recruiting and hiring a literacy coach. Eligible applicants must have preemptively hired a literacy coach for the 2021-22 school year and meet all minimum requirements as set by the Texas State Board of Educator Certification and the requirements of the subgrant. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

N/A

6. Provide the plan for embedded professional development for the literacy coach(es) to support them in providing valuable training. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

N/A

7. Identify the plan for demonstrating outcomes for increasing student literacy in a school or district. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

N/A

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements

8. Provide a plan for how you will target schools or districts in Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs), with an additional emphasis on serving low-income, high-need students, including children living in poverty, English Language Learners, and children with disabilities. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

N/A

9. Describe your organization's capacity for grant management, including data collection and tracking, meeting reporting requirements, and tracking progress towards goals and pre-defined outcomes. List the organization's key individuals that will play a role in grant activities and describe their expertise and experience. Please upload the resume for any individuals within your organization that will be supporting the work of the grant. (Answer only if applying for the literacy coaching opportunity)

N/A

10. Provide the plan for literacy conferences including how it incorporates the use of high quality instructional materials to support a knowledge building approach to learning. Include a rationale as to why your organization is best suited to lead regional conferences. (Answer only if applying for the regional literacy conferences opportunity)

HQ INSTRUCTIOAL MATERIALS- BISD LISTO Plan will provide a high quality literacy conference including incorporating the use of high quality instructional materials currently recommended by the state of Texas to support a knowledge building approach to learning. These HQ materials includes; Blended Learning Literacy Basics: Engage and support ALL learners!, Engaging English-Language learners with iPad, Augmented and virtual reality Literacy tools for education, MS Teams integration, Differentiating Instruction/Assessment using google forms. REGIONAL LEAD-The rationale as to why BISD is best suited to lead regional conferences is the size and distance from ESC 1. The total amount of schools and students in Cameron County is significant on its own. Education Service Center One in Hidalgo County is about a 3 hour round trip (130 total miles) from Brownsville ISD. BISD is the furthest ISD from ESC 1 adding to time and money loss due to distance. Many teachers believe that taking nearly a 1/2 day for just travel is too much of a loss of day for only 1/2 day of training and rather not pursue HQ ESC 1 trainings in Edinburg. BISD is also the largest ISD in South Texas with approximately 43,000 students and a staff of 6,487. BISD has 33% of teachers (939) that have less than 10 years of experience.

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements

11. Include the proposed conference participation goals and outcomes-focused success metrics for conferences. (Answer only if applying for the regional literacy conferences opportunity)

> The proposed conference participation goals and outcomes-focused success metrics for each conference includes;
> Year 1: Conference Post-Pandemic Literacy: Teaching Students with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Learning Loss; Year 2: Comprehensive Family Literacy and Reading Through Super Libraries; Year 3: Hispanic Literacy Conference: Spark Curiosity, Ignite Potential. Program Goals and Objectives includes:
> • Reach 100% of the targeted high needs Elementary schools with 200 teachers participating as trainers of trainers.
> • Recruit the Best Regional, State and National Speakers for the Conference that bring the most relevant and timely training for the teachers based on the yearly conference topic.
> • A Resource Bag for each participant with high quality teacher materials and literacy resources
> • Establish yearly partners and sponsors for the conference
> • Recruit Vendors and organizations for exhibits and door prizes
> • Provide high quality meals to include continental breakfast, lunch and snacks
> • Create a safe environment for all participants
> • Establish Swag rooms for refreshing and networking opportunities

12. Provide the plan for how you will recruit schools or districts to attend conference in Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs), with an additional emphasis on serving low-income, high-need students, including children living in poverty, English Language Learners, and children with disabilities. (Answer only if applying for the regional literacy conferences opportunity)

> BISD plans to recruit schools and districts to attend the LIT conferences in Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZs) as 4 QOZs are located in Brownsville alone with an additional emphasis on serving a high Hispanic (98.3%) student pop, At risk of educational failure (68%), students living in poverty (95.8%), English Learners (36.1%), students with disabilities (14.1%-5,734), not completing a college degree (96%). BISD has established relational grants and shared services with Point Isabel ISD, Los Fresnos ISD and San Benito CISD. BISD has 12 (23%) of the 53 schools in targeted support by TEA and 15 (28%) schools with a D-F Rating in one of the 2019 TEA School Progress Indicators (TxSchools.gov). BISD must also offer a conference with bilingual emphasis as many of the teachers are designated Bilingual/ESL ED (36%) compared to TX at 20%. A few samples of session titles that will help recruit teachers includes; Blended Learning Literacy Basics: Engage and support ALL learners!, Engaging English-Language learners with iPad, Playgrounds-Augmented and virtual reality tools for Literacy education, and EL Teams integration, Differentiating Instruction/Assessment using google forms as well as support for the latest Literacy apps in the market.

10. 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 grant.

- ⦿ The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this grant.
- ◯ 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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11. Request for Grant Funds

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA.

Payroll Costs

#	Activity	Amount
1.	PD Director (Stipend) Maria V. Gonzalez 42 Exp. Former TLI Director	$1,500
2.	Teacher Stipends (Daily Rate $150) 200 Teachers	$30,000
3.		
4.		
5.		

Professional and Contracted Services

#	Activity	Amount
6.	Conference Speakers (2 @ $2,000 each)	$3,000
7.	Facility Rental (Event Center)	$2,500
8.		
9.		
10.		

Supplies and Materials

#	Activity	Amount
11.	Teacher Materials ($38/pp)	$7,600
12.	Conference Setup/Decorations	$1,650
13.		
14.		

Other Operating Costs

#	Activity	Amount
15.	Meals (250 @ $15/pp for continental breakfast, lunch and snack)	$3,750
16.		
17.		

TOTAL GRANT AWARD REQUESTED: $50,000

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Appendix I: Negotiation and Amendments

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 of the TEA website and may be mailed OR faxed (not both). **To fax:** one copy of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to either (512) 463-9811 or (512) 463-9564. **To mail:** three copies of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to the address on page 1. More detailed amendment instructions can be found on the last page of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page.

For amendments, choose the section you wish to amend from the drop down menu on the left. In the text box on the right, describe the changes you are making and the reason for them.

Always work with the most recent negotiated or amended application. If you are requesting a revised budget, please include the budget attachments with your amendment.

Section Being Negotiated or Amended	Negotiated Change or Amendment

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