



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

NOGA ID [Redacted]

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 [Redacted] **July 3, 2023-September 30, 2025**

Pre-award costs permitted from [Redacted] **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): [Redacted]

Applicant Information

Organization [Laredo ISD] CDN [240901] Campus [240901043] ESC [1] EIN [746001580]

Address [2600 Palo Blanco St.] City [Laredo] ZIP [78046] Vendor ID [1746001580]

Primary Contact [Oralia H. Cortez] Email [ocortez@laredoisd.org] Phone [956-273-1261]

Secondary Contact [Jose Cerda] Email [jcerda@laredoisd.org] Phone [956-273-1745]

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 [Dr. Sylvia G. Rios] Title [Superintendent of Schools]

Email [sgrios@laredoisd.org] Phone [956-273-1401]

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date [4-20-23]



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



Pathway 1	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Pathway 2	<input type="text" value="1"/>



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.

- 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.

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.

Laredo ISD will continue to provide extensive instructional leadership to eligible middle school campus in carrying out support and improvement activities that close achievement gaps and foster student learning. The district will aim to strengthen campus systems, build campus staff capacity, improve school outcomes, and continue implementation and support of the campus improvement efforts. The district has assisted the campus in conducting a self-assessment that included evaluating the implementation of the five essential actions included in the Effective School Framework: Strong School Leadership and Planning, Effective, Well-Supported Teachers, Positive School Culture, Quality Instruction and Effective Instruction to identify focus areas. Cigarroa Middle continues to need improvement in the area of effective instruction, specifically on objective-driven daily lesson plans with formative assessments and building strong school leadership and planning. Our goal is to increase classroom rigor by planning and executing quality instruction that includes differentiated and scaffolded supports for students with disabilities and English Learners. By providing support and establishing a culture of data-driven instruction, campuses will develop a systemic approach to lesson planning that will focus on rigor and differentiation of instruction to meet the needs of all student populations. In addition, we will build strong school leadership by providing ongoing coaching on conducting observations and providing meaningful timely feedback to our teachers. Our district has opted to select Pathway 2-External Vetted Improvement Program that will provide high-quality contracted services aligned with foundational essential actions within the Effective Schools Framework. Currently, Plan4learning, a web-based improvement plan application allows the district and campuses to develop their goals and performance objectives providing opportunities to define strategies, establish essential actions and measurable milestones. The essential action structures include: data-driven instruction, classroom rigor, planning and demonstration, and observation and feedback. These components addressed in the effective schools framework will identify gaps in implementation and sustainability to drive student academic success. Laredo ISD will be working closely with Cigarroa Middle to establish unique individualized performance measures that will be monitored and reported through the web-based improvement plan submission and address potential barriers. The campus will be provided operational flexibility and leveraged funding options that ensures a total support system that builds instructional and leadership capacity.

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.

If Cigarroa Middle is granted the funds, Laredo ISD will monitor the campus by continuously evaluating their campus web-based improvement plan upon submission and during the implementation period through scheduled progress monitoring. The district will assist in the development of calendars that outline specific action steps or activities to be completed during the school year. In addition, the school improvement team will develop rubrics with specific metrics when collecting artifacts to measure progress and fidelity of implementation of activities included in the web-based improvement plan. On-going monitoring will include: review of lesson plans, direct coaching activities, PLC meeting agendas and minutes, student performance reports, and calibration of walk through data and feedback. Program funding will be monitored to ensure adequate vetted improvement costs such as: instructional materials, professional development sessions, and other support costs are aligned to the intent and fidelity towards the implementation of the grant. After the first year of the grant cycle, Laredo ISD will evaluate the web-based improvement plans using the developed rubric to identify areas of non-improvement. The District School Improvement Team will meet with campus leadership teams to assist in conducting a self assessment and developing a redesigned plan that focuses on activities that address areas of need identified and establish measurable outcomes for the upcoming year. Laredo ISD will modify instructional practices as needed to ensure full and effective implementation of the web-based improvement plans accordingly. Laredo ISD will ensure that campus-wide integrated data systems will facilitate communication and support intervention strategies focused to increase engagement and academic improvement. Simultaneously, Laredo ISD will provide significant levels of empowerment to the campus in deciding the daily operations and the implementation of success-driven research-based initiatives following the Effective Schools Framework.

Topic: Description of Proposed Operational Flexibility

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.

In an effort to provide effective implementation of essential actions identified in the web-based improvement plan, Laredo ISD is committed to providing operational flexibility in school operations such as: scheduling collaborative planning sessions by content and grade level, district leadership support in the content areas, ensuring time allotment of on-site collaborative learning walks with instructional leaders and access to timely student performance reports. Laredo ISD will allow awarded campuses to select professional development sessions that are aligned to their needs assessment and web-based improvement plans. Laredo ISD will also leverage other funding sources to not only help increase capacity and sustainability in addressing effective instruction and building strong leadership and planning, but also ensuring that the campus has effective, well supported teachers, positive school cultures and high quality curriculum and assessments. Laredo ISD will also work to identify other funds (local, state and federal) to coordinate services to support and sustain the campus operational flexibility. Our goal is to achieve superior levels of effective instruction that encompasses collaborative interactions between students, teachers, parents, and content that drive positive learning outcomes.



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.

The proposed budget will be expended on supporting program strategies directly aligned to essential actions identified in the web-based improvement plans. The budgeted program costs will be reflective of campus needs identified in the needs assessment. The goal is to assist our campus leaders in establishing and using consistent protocols and processes to improve the planning and execution of rigorous instruction. We also want to provide professional development and coaching sessions on using and modeling best practices when conducting observations and providing feedback. Additionally, the proposed budget will be expended on supporting the improvement and campus operational flexibility based on need, planning of anticipated risks and necessary adjustments over the course of the program funding period that will be evaluated consistently. The budgeted program funds will supplement and not supplant state mandates, rules or activities previously conducted or funded through other local or state funds. The budget is reflective of all necessary funding needed to ensure each eligible campus has sufficient resources to ensure program completion, success and growth. The budget will be evaluated and adjusted on an as need basis depending on program progress, success, and program outcomes to strengthen campus systems, build campus staff capacity, improve school outcomes and continue implementation and support of the campus improvement efforts. Program funding will be monitored to ensure adequate vetted improvement program costs, technical assistance, instructional materials, professional development programs, program monitoring, extra-duty and other support costs that are focused on program fidelity and measurable outcomes identified in each web-based improvement plan. Laredo ISD currently expends Title I, Part A, Title II, and other federal, state, and local resources to support our school improvement programs and build capacity of teachers and campus and district leaders in areas such as content knowledge, instructional practices, differentiation of instruction, classroom rigor and technology integration. In addition, Title II funds are used to provide additional teachers to reduce class size along with Title IV funds to implement the positive behavior intervention system at all our schools. Lastly, these additional funds will allow us to continue to address focus areas and ensure that all student groups meet the performance targets and academic growth expected in state and federal accountability.

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

Laredo ISD will align federal, state, and local resources necessary to carry out program objectives identified in our comprehensive needs assessment/web-based improvement plans. In addition to the Title I ESF Support Grant, Laredo ISD will leverage additional funding from other local, state and federal resources to close program gaps and ensure adequate funding to carry out program activities supporting the program intent. Other funding sources will be used to allow for teacher supplemental planning time, extended learning time for our students through prescriptive small group instruction and instructional materials to ensure high quality instruction for our students. The program funding will enhance the campuses operational flexibility and ability to focus on rigorous learning experiences through objective driven daily lessons, routines, assessments, building leadership capacity, creating stronger educator supports, creating a positive school culture and providing a pathway to better planning and leadership. These additional funds will allow us to continue to address focus areas and ensure that all student groups meet the performance targets and academic growth expected in state and federal accountability. The goal is to provide the necessary resources to ensure continuous improvement and exit the identification of a Targeted Support Campus.

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	

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