



# 2024-2025 Stronger Connections Grant

Competitive Grant Application: Due 11:59 p.m. CT, July 18, 2023

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](mailto:competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov).

The application **MUST** bear the signature of a person authorized to bind the applicant to a contractual agreement

Authorizing legislation:

Grant period:  Pre-award costs:

Required attachments:

Amendment Number

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RFA/SAS # 701-23-120/634-24

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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.

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9. Statutory/ TEA Program Requirements

1. Describe how the LEA will identify the campuses that will participate in the establishment of the Student Support Program described in the program description? Include the criteria or considerations that will influence the determination by the LEA.

Due to the rural and isolated location, HISD has only two campuses, Hearne Elementary and Hearne JH/HS. Therefore, both campuses will be served. While identifying specific campuses to target will not be necessary, the district did review the following criteria, to determine this grant and the SSP are needed:

- € STUDENT NEEDS: Academic, mental, emotional, behavioral, physical, and social needs of our students on different campuses.
- € SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS: Social-emotional and mental health issues faced by students, their fears and insecurities, as reported by the Threat Assessment Team and local news in the community.
- € BEHAVIORAL NEEDS: Discipline incidents, disciplinary action, and reports of harmful or threatening behavior, as reported by school counselors and educators, and reflected by suspension and/or expulsion rates as reported in PEIMS (i.e., bullying, fights, terroristic threats, and drugs).
- € DATA ANALYSIS/TARGETED IMPROVEMENT PLAN (TIP): Targeted improvement plans that outline the goals and strategies for enhancing student performance. To ensure the campus goals/strategies align with that of the grant program.
- € CAPACITY/RESOURCES: Staff expertise, infrastructure, existing support services, and current collaborations with external organizations.

Based on the review of our student's needs, the district's targeted improvement plan, stakeholder input, and capacity/resources, the district determined that both campuses need to establish an SSP.

2. Describe how the LEA will ensure that campus leaders and staff are committed to the success of the Student Support Program.

HISD will ensure campus administration, program personnel, and all campus staff members fully comprehend the importance and required commitment to ensure success of the SSP. To promote staff commitment, the following measures will take place:

**PROGRAM TRAINING:** The program's goals, objectives, and significance will be effectively communicated to the Program Director, Counselors, Social Workers, SBTS, SBTS Assistant, District Safety Officer, campus administration, and staff. By involving them in the grant process, staff engagement and commitment to the program's success will be ensured. Additionally, staff members will attend Region 6 ESC workshops. This training will enhance their understanding of the grant's importance, further strengthening their commitment to its success.

**COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT:** The program will foster a collaborative environment, actively involving campus leaders and staff in the development and implementation of the SSP. Open communication and participation in decision-making processes will bolster commitment and engagement in the program. Additionally, this approach will facilitate various insights into any challenges and obstacles the program may encounter.

**ALIGNMENT WITH TARGETED IMPROVEMENT PLANS:** Align the goals and strategies of the SSP with each will e2ae p

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9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)

3. Describe how the LEA will engage parents and families to solicit support for the program.

HISD will engage parents/families to solicit support for the program through:

Communication: Communicate with parents and families about the program via our Eagle Check-In weekly video podcast and Town Hall meetings. During these sessions, we will convey the program's purpose, benefits, and how it aligns with the district's mission. There will also be dedicated outreach efforts to parents and families of high-need students who are identified for specialized support.

PARENT EDUCATION SESSIONS: Organize parent education sessions that discuss the program's objectives, strategies, and outcomes, emphasizing the importance of addressing bullying, violence, terroristic threats, and drugs, while promoting student well-being. Training on student support at home will also be provided.

PARENT COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS: A family advisory committee will be created for the SSP as a platform through which parents/families and students can share their thoughts, suggestions, and concerns about student services. Their input is valued and will be considered in program planning and implementation. Giving a voice to these stakeholders will be critical in fostering a collaborative environment and ensuring program success.

SURVEYS/FEEDBACK: Use our Panorama surveys/feedback to gather input from parents and families. Regular surveys assess satisfaction, gather suggestions for improvement, and measure the program's impact on students and the community. We will have Town Hall meetings, workshops, and events to foster dialogue and active involvement in achieving the grant's goals.

TCSS: Utilize the family engagement playbook to build support with families. This playbook will serve as a resource with mental, behavioral, emotional, and physical health resources.

By engaging parents and families through effective communication, involvement, and feedback, we can ensure active participation in supporting the SSP. This collaborative approach strengthens the program's impact, and fosters shared responsibility for creating safe and inclusive learning environments with training, coaching, and support together with parents/families for students.

4. Describe how the LEA will ensure that there is adequate staff to support the establishment and implementation of the Student Support Program.

HISD will ensure adequate staff to support the establishment and implementation of the SSP through several measures. With a town as small as Hearne, any crime occurring impacts the entire community. Even if the crime does not directly occur to the student and/or their immediate family, they more than likely are related to or know the victim. For this reason, it is essential for HISD to have sufficient staff to proactively respond to serious mental health and behavioral/truancy concerns that are a direct result of criminal activity within the community. Therefore, HISD will hire two (2) Social Workers and two (2) SBTS. HISD will also hire an experienced Program Director to provide guidance throughout the project and enter data-related tasks. Lastly, a SBTS Assistant Assistant will be hired to submit reports for each campus, send out district-wide communications, and follow-up with parents' concerns regarding their child's truancy and/or disruptive/aggressive behavior.

In addition to hiring new staff, HISD will carry out staffing assessments at each campus to identify existing gaps, particularly in the support of high-need populations. Aligned with these findings, the district will use grant funds to offer specialized and tailored professional development training. These training courses will help equip the staff with the skills necessary to implement an SSP that addresses all students' needs, including those coming from subpopulations. Finally, HISD will continually assess staffing needs and encourage open communication for feedback to ensure all necessary resources are in place. These assessments will ensure that all necessary resources are in place. Finally, HISD will ensure adequate staff to support the establishment and implementation of the SSP.

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**9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)**

5. Describe how each of the campuses will be supported by the grant program, if awarded, currently conduct behavioral threat assessments and how the campus will incorporate current systems into the student support team structure.

6. Describe how the LEA currently identifies student support needs and how it identifies and establishes

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**9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)**

7. Describe how the LEA currently partners with the regional ESC to support improvement in student mental health,

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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. 11. PNP Equitable Services



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**12. 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**

1.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="\$220,000"/>
2.	(2) SBTS provide support services & intervene in crisis situations.	<input type="text" value="\$195,800"/>
3.	Program Director- Manage, report, and support grant-related activities.	<input type="text" value="\$119,167"/>
4.	SBTS Assistant will complete reports, send district-wide communications, and more.	<input type="text" value="\$18,333"/>
5.	Salaries referenced include the following fringe benefits calculated at 16%.	<input type="text" value="\$88,528"/>

**Professional and Contracted Services**

6.	Required 6% of funds for technical assistance provided by the regional ESC	<input type="text" value="\$60,000"/>
7.	Required 10% of funds to the Texas Center for Student Supports	<input type="text" value="\$100,000"/>
8.	Consultant will host workshops on identifying risk-factors, de-escalation, and more.	<input type="text" value="\$45,990"/>
9.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Supplies and Materials**

11.	Technology equipment/supplies - (laptop, case/covers, poster machine, interactive flat panel)	<input type="text" value="\$33,006"/>
12.	Decompression Rooms- promote positive behavior/mental health.	<input type="text" value="\$20,000"/>
13.	Parent Support Centers will offer a designated space to meet with admin & discuss concerns.	<input type="text" value="\$6,000"/>

**Other Operating Costs**

15.	Travel Costs for Conferences/Registration Fees for Threat Assessment Team (4 employees).	<input type="text" value="\$10,166"/>
16.	Travel Costs for training with Texas Student Support Center and Region ESC (4 employees).	<input type="text" value="\$9,000"/>
17.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Debt Services**

18.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
19.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Capital Outlay**

20.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Direct administrative costs:

Indirect administrative costs:

**TOTAL GRANT AWARD REQUESTED:**

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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.

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