

Communities Foundation of Texas

Educate Texas

Grant Agreement

Recipient: DeSoto Independent School District

Total Grant Amount: Up to \$1,300,000

Source: The Educate Texas Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas



EDUCATE TEXAS

a public-private initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas

Date: May 12, 2025

Communities Foundation of Texas
5500 Caruth Haven Lane
Dallas, Texas 75225
(214) 750-4222

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I. TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE GRANT

- A. This Grant Agreement is entered into in connection with a grant by **Communities Foundation of Texas** (“CFT”) and **Educate Texas, a public-private initiative of CFT**, to **DeSoto Independent School District** (the “Recipient” or “Recipient Organization”). The funds provided pursuant to this grant (the “Granted Funds”) may be used only in accordance with the provisions stated in this Grant Agreement. The designated use of Granted Funds is subject to modification only with prior written approval of CFT. No grant provided by CFT may be used for any political campaign or to support attempts to influence legislation by any governmental body. No charitable grant provided by CFT may directly benefit or pay a personal pledge or obligation of the donor who created the source fund, the donor's family, a CFT trustee, a CFT employee, or an advisor for the source fund. The Recipient represents and affirms that the Granted Funds shall not create any personal benefit for the donor who created the source fund, the donor's family, a CFT trustee, a CFT employee, or an advisor for the source fund. The Recipient also represents and affirms that the Granted Funds are not in payment of any legally binding pledge, written or verbal commitment or obligation of any individual or entity other than CFT.
- B. The Recipient, following appropriate internal review and accounting procedures, agrees to apply best efforts to receive, process, and use the Granted Funds (as described in Section II below), in a timely way, without unreasonable delay, and in a facilitative manner.
- C. No portion of the Granted Funds may be "taxed" by the Recipient to fund the Recipient's operations at an institutional, local, state or national level without prior written approval of CFT. Unless specifically authorized in writing by CFT, Granted Funds may not be directed, appropriated, assigned or shared to fund the Recipient's institutional or developmental overhead costs, direct or indirect costs, or general overhead or administrative operations costs, other than those identified in the CFT-approved budget for the project described in Section II of this Grant Agreement (the “Project”). All Granted Funds must be used by the Recipient for the designated Educate Texas grant purpose stated in Section II of this Grant Agreement. Should any Granted Funds be used to sponsor or fund independent or individual research, investigation, discovery or invention, CFT or its designee must be assigned and legally possess all intellectual property rights in and to the direct results of such sponsored or funded activity or project. Granted Funds may not be used to provide private inurement to fund, directly or indirectly, for-profit ventures, organizations or projects. The Recipient is responsible for the legal use of Granted Funds as designated in the Grant Agreement and for maintaining accurate financial records consistent with generally accepted government accounting practices.
- D. The Recipient will furnish Educate Texas and CFT with written evaluation reports in the form and format required by Educate Texas and CFT, its donors and major funding partners on at least an annual basis, or as requested in writing by Educate Texas or CFT, its donors and major funding partners, and at the conclusion of the Project. These reports must include a complete financial statement, quantitative information regarding the progress of the Project goals to date, and a detailed narrative describing the progress of the Project. These reports shall supply sufficient information for Educate Texas and CFT to determine that the grant has been or is being used for the purpose intended (as described in Section II below), to monitor the progress of the Project, and to fulfill its public reporting responsibilities. The Recipient agrees to maintain adequate records to enable proper expenditure of the Granted Funds to be easily confirmed. The Recipient agrees to make its books and records available for inspection at a time and location mutually agreeable to the Recipient and CFT and to permit CFT or its designated representatives to monitor and conduct an evaluation of operations under this grant at a time and location mutually agreeable to the Recipient and CFT, which may include visits by CFT or Educate Texas staff or other designated representatives or contractors

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to observe the Recipient's operations, discussions of the Project with the Recipient's staff, and reviews of financial and other records connected with this grant.

- E. If CFT is not satisfied with the progress of the Project or the content of any written report from the Recipient regarding the Project, then CFT may, at its discretion, (i) require that any deficient report be rewritten, and/or (ii) cancel the grant and discontinue funding the Project and/or require that the Recipient return any unspent and uncommitted portion of the Granted Funds previously distributed to the Recipient by CFT. Without limiting the foregoing, CFT reserves the right to withhold funds or terminate this Grant Agreement if the Recipient has significant organizational or Project leadership changes that CFT believes may compromise the Project or adversely impact the Recipient's viability or ability to function as intended and described in Section II below. Recipient agrees to notify CFT immediately regarding any significant organizational or Project leadership changes that occur. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Grant Agreement, in the event that this Grant Agreement is terminated for the reasons set forth in the foregoing sentence, no amount of any unpaid Granted Funds will be paid to the Recipient.
- F. The Recipient agrees to collaborate with Educate Texas and CFT by implementing a framework for Project evaluation to gather essential information and data, and to conduct an independent assessment of the Project's progress. As part of the evaluation process, the Recipient agrees to:
1. Allow, coordinate and facilitate the collection of data by CFT or its evaluation contractor;
 2. Allow the dissemination of evaluation and research findings; and
 3. Allow CFT or its evaluation contractor to implement a plan for analysis of student work, including professors' assignments. CFT acknowledges the Recipient's obligations to abide by all FERPA requirements and any district/university requirements with regard to individual student and teacher identification. The Recipient agrees with appropriate protections and assurances to its students and teachers from CFT or its evaluation contractor, to provide samples of student work and teacher assignments, as requested by CFT or the contractor.
- G. In crediting the grant for all reporting purposes, credit must be given to the Trustees of Communities Foundation of Texas for their awarding of this grant. **All public announcement, credit and reporting of this grant must list the source of the grant as:**

“Educate Texas, a public-private initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas”

- H. The Recipient agrees to permit CFT and/or its representatives and/or its major funding partners to include information on this grant in its/their periodic reports and to permit reference to this grant in press releases. CFT agrees to provide the Recipient with reasonable advance notice of any public press announcement related to the Project that requires the attendance of any of the Recipient's officials. Following guidelines established by Educate Texas concerning public announcements, communications and marketing, the Recipient will use its best efforts to publicize and promote public knowledge of the grant, unless otherwise instructed in writing by CFT. Any written credit line and/or any camera-ready art supplied by CFT will be employed by the Recipient, in the design, format, specification and size determined to be appropriate by CFT, in all printed announcements, press releases, publications and media briefing materials or announcements related to the Project, provided there is no conflict with the Recipient's media requirements and guidelines. Any public announcement of this grant and/or the Project that may be made by the Recipient must first be reviewed and approved by CFT. Copies of news releases and other published materials, pictures etc., that may be developed by the Recipient in connection with this grant, will be provided to CFT for its review and approval before being released. The Recipient agrees to consult with

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Educate Texas in order to develop an appropriate naming opportunity, credit and acknowledgement strategy and methods and forms of public recognition that are acceptable to CFT and are suitable for a grant of this magnitude and timeliness.

- I. Written acknowledgement of CFT's support in programs or other materials must include the source of the grant as stated in Section G above. The Recipient agrees to permit CFT, at CFT's option and expense, to change, replace or modify any plaques, signs or other forms of public acknowledgement of the grant made by the Recipient, should CFT determine, at any time in the future, that a change in the name of CFT or in the granting fund warrants such a change in the interest of clarity, proper credit and historical accuracy.
- J. To the extent not prohibited by the constitution and laws of the State of Texas, the Recipient shall indemnify CFT and hold CFT harmless from and against any liability, loss damage, suit, claim, action or proceeding suffered or incurred by CFT, or any of its officers, directors, trustees, partners, employees or agents as the result of the Recipient's failure to observe, perform or discharge the Recipient's duties hereunder, or in any matter arising out of the making of this grant by CFT, excluding in any event any of the foregoing resulting from CFT's gross negligence or willful misconduct. The obligation of the Recipient under this Section J shall survive the termination of this Grant Agreement for any reason. The foregoing indemnification shall apply whether or not the indemnified claims are in any way or to any extent owed, in whole or in part, under any claim or theory of strict liability, or are caused, in whole or in part, by any negligent act or omission of CFT or any of its officers, directors, trustees, partners, employees or agents.
- K. **IF THE RECIPIENT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE CONDITIONS OF THIS GRANT AGREEMENT WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM CFT, THEN CFT MAY CANCEL OR MODIFY THE GRANT AND REQUIRE THAT ANY UNSPENT AND UNCOMMITTED PORTION OF THE GRANTED FUNDS BE RETURNED. CFT RESERVES THE RIGHT, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, TO ALTER THE PAY OUT SCHEDULE FOR THIS GRANT BY GIVING WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE ALTERATION TO THE RECIPIENT.**

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II. DESIGNATION/OTHER CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT

- A. Based upon the grant proposal submitted by the Recipient to Educate Texas (the “Grant Proposal”), **DeSoto Independent School District** is awarded funds designated to be used by the Recipient to fund the activities of the **District-wide STEM Implementation**. The Project to be supported by the Granted Funds is described in Section B of this Section II. The Recipient assures CFT that the Recipient’s administration of the Granted Funds and the objectives of the Project thereby supported shall in all ways be consistent with the goals and objectives of Educate Texas, its major funding partners and Communities Foundation of Texas.
- B. The Recipient agrees to:
1. Offer college-focused academics and a rigorous course of study in mathematics, the sciences, technology, and engineering, in order to promote student persistence in the Texas college and career STEM pipeline and the development of a regional STEM-literate workforce.

2. Provide industry-informed programming by partnering with industry experts, museums, universities, research centers, or other STEM-capable community partners to prepare and assist teachers in integrating STEM content across grades and disciplines, in promoting effective and relevant instruction, and in providing students opportunities to engage in creativity, innovation, and problem solving in applied global-context learning environments.

3. Provide academic and social-emotional student support to foster STEM identity as a predictor of future career choice in STEM fields and mitigate external and internal factors that challenge student success.

4. Develop a sustainability plan for system-wide STEM implementation to continue district commitment and support scaling of highly effective STEM schools, STEM principals, and STEM teachers.

5. Prepare more students for advanced study and careers in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including addressing the needs of underrepresented groups.

6. Support a statewide best-practices network for science, technology, engineering, and math education to promote broad dissemination and adoption of promising practices from the system-wide STEM initiative and to improve math and science performance for students across Texas.

7. Submit all required reports on time according to the schedule outlined in Section F of this Section II.

8. To measure the effectiveness of this grant, CFT will gather data related to the outcomes of interest. The table below outlines proposed data CFT seeks to obtain from the district but should not be considered a comprehensive list. This data will be used by CFT to report results as specified in the grant agreement between CFT and the TI Foundation. The collected data will be used to populate reports and dashboards provided to the TI Foundation which will track progress on key outcomes related to the implementation of systemwide STEM.

Proposed Metrics to Be Collected

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- MAP scores
- TSI scores
- ACT/SAT scores
- AP/Pre-AP math, science and English courses offered
- AP math, science and English scores
- Number or Percentage of teachers/counselors trained
- Number and type of PD opportunities offered for teachers/counselors
- Number of participants in leadership development programs
- Number of additional/new college-level courses and industry certifications offered
- Number of students earning college credit, degrees and industry certifications
- Number of students taking Algebra I in 8th grade, AP and dual credit courses
- Number of students pursuing and obtaining industry certifications
- Student and parent perceptions around STEM education and careers
- Number and type of industry and IHE partners
- Number and types of Work Based Learning per grade provided by STEM partners (internships, mentors, field visits, etc.)

9. Submit all required reports on time according to the schedule outlined in Section II F

Attachment A (Program Activities) lists the actions and activities that will be required of the Recipient to achieve these goals.

C. Anticipated outcomes:

Attachment B: Expected Outcomes, details short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes anticipated to result from this grant.

D. Provided all terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement are met in the sole judgment of CFT and Educate Texas, payment of the Granted Funds shall be made by CFT to the Recipient as outlined below, up to the maximum amount of \$1,300,000. The Recipient acknowledges and agrees to fund the Project as designated in, and in the amounts and according to the budget submitted as part of, the Grant Proposal.

Recipient	Upon Signature	10/30/2025	1/30/2026	Total
DeSoto Independent School District	\$650,000	\$390,000	\$260,000	\$1,300,000

All funds must be spent by May 31, 2026. The Recipient agrees to adhere to the approved budget for the Project. Any increase or decrease of more than 10% to an **individual budget line** included as part of the Project budget submitted by the Recipient and approved by Educate Texas and CFT must be approved by Educate Texas and CFT **in advance** in writing.

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The Recipient acknowledges, understands and accepts that funds granted under this Grant Agreement may not be used to support capital costs, permanent staff positions, any activities than can be construed as lobbying, and/or any activities that include payment to an elected official (e.g., conference participation, meals, travel, etc.).

E. Future payment of funds awarded under the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement is contingent upon the Recipient's maintenance of its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax under Sections 501 (c)(3) or 170(b), as applicable, of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition to the other terms of this Grant Agreement, payment of any funds granted under this Grant Agreement may be suspended or cancelled by CFT at its sole discretion should either of the following occur: 1) dissolution of the Recipient, or 2) termination of the Recipient's tax exempt status.

F. Written **documentation/reports** must be submitted to Educate Texas and CFT on the following dates:

1. **July 30, 2025** – Project Documentation Plan
2. **September 15, 2025** – Interim Report
3. **January 15, 2026** – Interim Report.

Each interim report shall include (a) a Project narrative, and (b) a Budget report, on templates to be provided by Educate Texas, that reports expenses to date, by line item, as compared to the original budget submitted by the Recipient in the Grant Proposal.

4. **June 15, 2027**- Final Report

A written **Final** report must be submitted to Educate Texas and CFT, on templates provided by Educate Texas, and shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- a. Address the degree to which the stated goals and objectives of the Project were achieved,
- b. Describe, implementation strategy, and address data outcomes, and
- c. A final expenditure report prepared on a template to be provided by Educate Texas.

G. In addition to the evaluation and accountability requirements detailed in Section I above, the Recipient agrees to monitor, support and track Project performance against expected Project outcomes and to monitor and/or audit the appropriate use of Granted Funds. The Recipient, working with the staff of Educate Texas and its outside professional advisors, agrees to assist in the implementation of a detailed program to collect data needed to evaluate the Program and Project performance in meeting the Educate Texas goals and to participate fully in a range of data collection and evaluation activities that will be required by Educate Texas, except as may be prohibited by law.

H. The Recipient acknowledges that neither CFT nor Educate Texas makes any assurances of, and is in no way obligated to provide additional, future or supplementary funding to support the continuation of the programs created, enhanced or transformed by this grant. The Recipient agrees to work with and assist Educate Texas, its participating institutions, its funding partners, and its constituents, to identify and cultivate other funding sources in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Educate Texas.

I. An annual site visit at a date and time mutually agreeable with the Recipient and CFT may be conducted by the Educate Texas Program Officer to assess progress on the stated goals of the Project. Site visit and meeting

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attendance by Educate Texas staff will discontinue at the termination of this Grant Agreement or in the event that Educate Texas funding is discontinued by its major funding partner, the Texas Instruments Foundation.

III. NOTICE

The terms of this Grant Agreement shall be governed by Texas law applicable to agreements made and to be performed in Texas. The terms of this Grant Agreement may be amended only by a written instrument signed by the Recipient and CFT. Use of the Granted Funds must be appropriate under the terms and provisions of this Grant Agreement and Sections 501(c)(3) or 170(b), as applicable, of the Internal Revenue Code and conform to all state and federal laws. Permission to alter the designated purpose or use of the Granted Funds must be obtained in writing from CFT. This is a one-time grant and CFT's entire and total grant commitment under this Grant Agreement shall not be more than the sum of **\$1,300,000**. Payment of this grant is subject to the availability of funds in the Educate Texas Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas as provided by its major funding partner, Texas Instruments Foundation.



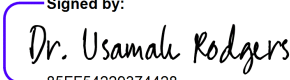
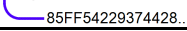
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IV. THE RECIPIENT’S ACCEPTANCE

For: DESOTO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Signed by:

By: 
(Signature) May 12, 2025
Date

Dr. Usamah Rodgers
(Print Name)

Superintendent
(Title)

Important Note:

This Grant Agreement must be signed by the Chairman of the Governing Body [Board of Directors/Trustees] of the Recipient Organization or by the primary Executive Officer of the Recipient Organization who is specifically empowered by the Governing Body to make legally binding agreements on its behalf.

V. CFT’s ACCEPTANCE

The foregoing is agreed to as of: May 19, 2025

Signed by:

By: 
Dr. Reo Pruiett
Chief Programs and Engagement Officer

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VI. GRANT SUMMARY (For Information Only)

Recipient:DeSoto Independent School District

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Recommended by:Education Committee

Payout schedule:Beginning upon signature of both parties to this Grant Agreement and ending on May 31, 2026. CFT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to alter the payout schedule for this grant after providing written notice to the Recipient.

All funds must be spent by May 31, 2026; a final report is due on June 15, 2026.

Contact Name:Dr. Usamah Rodgers

Title:Superintendent

Address:DeSoto Independent School District

200 E. Belt Line Rd,

DeSoto, TX 75115

Phone:972-223-6666

Email:usamah.rodgers@desotoisd.org

Contact Name:Bessye Adams

Title:Controller/ Interim Chief Financial Officer

Address:DeSoto Independent School District

200 E. Belt Line Rd,

DeSoto, TX 75115

Phone:972-274-8212 ext. 8224

Email:bessye.adams@desotoisd.org

Other:All reports due as described in Section II above

Attachment A- Program Activities

Rigorous College-Focused Academics

- Establish Leadership Team responsible for program design, monitoring, and continuous improvement
- Form partnerships with IHEs to provide DC opportunities
- Recruit, develop, and retain high-quality teachers
- Provide data-driven professional development on research-based instructional strategies and collaboration opportunities
- Provide leadership development
- Provide TSIA, AP, ACT/SAT prep, access, and intervention
- Align curriculum between high school, postsecondary, and industry experience requirements
- Provide a rigorous course of study that enables students to graduate high school with college credit, postsecondary degrees/credentials, and industry certifications

Student Support

- Individualize graduation plans using student outcome data
- Build advisory/academic support into program of study
- Provide intervention, remediation & acceleration support
- Provide college, financial aid, and career counseling
- Provide student career exploration with business partners
- Provide bridge programs to support grade transitions
- Build "STEM for All" culture
- Engage families and community through resources and events
- Provide connections to social services
- Provide community service program

Industry Informed Programming

- Define local workforce needs
- Form business and industry partnerships to work with IHE partners and Leadership Team on program design, monitoring, and continuous improvement
- Ensure teachers have STEM content and career knowledge
- Provide Work Based Learning at every grade level
- Provide STEM enrichment activities

Sustainability

- Create Funding Sustainability Plan
- Broad set of IHE, industry, and community partnerships advise and support to ensure long-term sustainability

Attachment B- Expected Outcomes

Proposed Short-term Outcomes (1-2 years)	Proposed Mid and Long-term Outcomes
<p>Rigorous College-Focused Academics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underrepresented students have more access to rigorous education • Increased quality and retention of teachers • Improved curriculum design and classroom instruction • Improved student test performance in STEM subjects • Increased readiness for MS and HS • Increased readiness for college level courses in HS • Increased students taking and completing college-level courses <p>Student Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have graduation and postsecondary goals and know steps needed to achieve them • Improved student retention • Students and families have more positive perception of STEM • Students and families have greater understanding of college and career options • Students access wrap-around services that meet non-academic needs <p>Industry-Informed Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM industry and district have active partnership • Academics and enrichment opportunities are aligned to industry needs • Students and teachers have more STEM-focused WBL experiences • Students have more industry knowledge, experience, and leadership/professional skills <p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for STEM program is strategic and sustainable • Advisory Board and Leadership Team collaborate to build and strengthen partnerships to ensure sustainability • Improved principal and teacher quality as measured through annual assessments 	<p>Mid-term Outcomes (3-6 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased passing rate and decreased gaps in gender and ethnic student achievement in math and science • Increased student enrollment and passing rates in Advanced Placement and dual-credit math and science courses • Increased 8th-grade enrollment and passing rates in Algebra I • Increased students earning college credit in high school • Increased students earning postsecondary degree and/or credential in high school • Increased students earning industry certifications in high school • More students graduate high school in 4 years • More college-ready graduates (SAT/ACT) • Increased students entering/ intending to enter STEM fields of study and careers <p>Long-term Outcomes (6+ years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More students enroll in college • More students persist in college • More students graduate college (4-year college degrees completed by STEM majors) • More students enter high-skill, high-wage, high-demand STEM careers