

# NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Subject:** **Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO Cycle 4) - Grant Application Opportunities and Navarro ISD's Intent to Apply**

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**Date:** November 17, 2025

**Administrator Responsible/Position:** Wendy McMullen, Chief Academic Officer

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**A. Purpose of Agenda Item:**

☐ Information Only

☒ Action Needed

☐ Receive Input

**B. Authority for This Action:**

☐ Local Policy

☒ Law or Rule

☐ N/A

**C. Priority, Goal, or Need Addressed:**

☒ Strategic Plan

☒ District/Campus  
Improvement  
Plan

☐ Other

**Priorities**

☐ **Priority 1:** Recruiting, Hiring, Coaching, and Retaining High Quality Teachers and Staff to Support Student Outcomes.

☒ **Priority 2:** Maximizing Academic Performance.

☐ **Priority 3:** Maximizing Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities, Performance, and Engagement.

☐ **Priority 4:** Planning, Preparing, and Maintaining Facilities and Environments for Learning.

☐ **Priority 5:** Obtaining and Maintaining Top Rated District Recognition

**Board Goals for 2023-2028**

☐ **Goal 1\*:** The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Reading will increase from 49% to 60% by June 2024, 65% for 2024-2025, 70% for 2025-2026, 75% for 2026-2027, 80% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☒ **Goal 2\*:** Increased overall student performance in mathematics to 85% Meets Standard by 2028. The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 53% to 65% by June 2024, 70% for 2024-2025, 75% for 2025-2026, 80% for 2026-2027, 85% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☐ **Goal 3\*:** The percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR will increase from 72% to 88% by August 2024 and increase to 95% by 2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

**D.**

**Summary:** **Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) is a single, consolidated application that combines grants, allotments, and in-kind supports, bundled around a few key strategies to accelerate academic gains. LASO Cycle 4 will offer 15 opportunities focused on curriculum &**

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instruction, educator training, more time, and innovative school models. In total, this cycle has 500 million in funds available across various initiatives and many of the LASO grants in this cycle are multi-year with continuation grant opportunities.

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**Background  
Information:**

This is the fourth cycle of the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) grant. NISD has received grant funds for Cycle 1, 2 and now 3. These funds have allowed us to fully implement high-quality instructional materials for RLA K-8 and Mathematics K- Algebra I. They have also provided us with funds to sustain two full-time instructional coaches. The Cycle 4 grant opportunity will provide us with the following opportunities if we apply:

- (1) Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) - 3 year program to build instructional capacity around the state Bluebonnet curriculum including training and skill building, coaching cycles and supports from an approved service provider
  - (2) Blended Learning Grant (BLG) - 3 year program - This award will provide us with software licenses for IXL and Amira. The funds can be used to off-set the district expenses (currently more than 40,000 and provide professional development training
  - (3) Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (APCSP) - 1 year program. As our CTE program expands, we are looking at adding an additional CTE teacher that can fully implement a Computer Science Pathway, separate from the P-TECH program. This award would allow the district to provide professional learning for an AP Computer Science teacher, pay for the AP test costs for students, and purchase supplies and materials needed for the APCSP course
  - (4) PREP Program Allotment: PREP Residency Preservice Program - 1 year program. This is an allotment program and our district will automatically receive the funds if we apply. This grant provides funding for teacher residents to work in classrooms with experienced teachers while earning teaching certificates. It will help Navarro ISD to cultivate a pipeline of well-prepared, high qualified teachers.
  - (5) PREP Program Allotment: PREP Grown Your Own (GYO) Program - This allotment would support current employees in completing a bachelor's degree and teacher preparation while employed. It also supports high school students who want to complete CTE courses that prepare them for teaching careers (our current Teaching and Training pathway).
  - (6) PREP Program Allotment: PREP Mentorship Program - This is another allotment program and if the district applies, we would automatically receive funds to increase teacher effectiveness and retention by providing strong mentorship. The funds can be used to provide mentor stipends, provide mentorship training or provide mentoring release time (pay for subs, etc.).
  - (7) Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grants - This is a two-year award which will provide funding for a staff member to
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oversee residencies in the district and coordinate between the district, the technical assistance provider, and the educator preparation program. The district must appoint a school system strategic staffing lead who will serve at least 20% of their time and effort to oversee the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies Grant and serve as the point of contact for the ESC technical assistance provider.

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**E. Comments Received:**

☒ LT

☒ DEIC

☒ Other

All agenda items are reviewed by the Superintendent's Leadership Team.

**F.**

**Administrative  
Recommendation:**

**To approve that the Chief Academic Officer may apply for the LASO Cycle 4 grant and allotment program on behalf of Navarro ISD in seven specific categories in which the district meets the program requirements and criteria.**

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**G. Fiscal Impact and Cost:**

**Amount:** N/A

☒ Budget

☒ Grant/Special  
Funds

☐ Other

☐ Bond

**H.**

**Exhibits: Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO Cycle 4) grant program overview information guide**

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“I move to approve/disapprove/postpone”

**I. Action: I move to approve for the Chief Academic Officer to apply for the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO Cycle 4) grant and allotments on behalf of Navarro ISD in the following categories: Leadership & Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT), the Blended Learning Grant (BLG), Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles, PREP Program Allotment: PREP Residency Preservice Program, PREP Program Allotment: PREP Grow Your Own (GYO) Program, PREP Program Allotment: PREP Mentorship Program, and the Texas Strategic Staffing for Residencies (TSS) Grants.**

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_

Second by: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

AGAINST: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

ABSTAIN: J. Frederick, D. Gilliam, L. Gosch, D. Reinhard, M. Sartain, C. Scheib, B. Stephenson

MOTION CARRIED/DENIED/POSTPONED