



**School Action Fund:  
Partner-Managed (SB 1882)**

*June 5, 2025*

*Board Workshop*

# Our goal today is...

- Align on our why
- Understand the process

# Align our why

## **North Star Goal**

- By the end of the 2028-2029 school, 75% of students in Abilene ISD will be in A or B seats.

## **High-quality Options for Students**

- Ensure we are creating bold, innovative school models that meet student needs

## **Community Engagement and Trust**

- Make sure families and stakeholders are part of the design process and see their needs reflected in school design and decision-making

## **Maximize Opportunities**

- Access significant financial and accountability benefits to support turnaround, redesign, or new school efforts

# Today's Goals

- ~~Align our why~~
- Understand the process
  - How did we get here?
  - What is it?
  - Who does what?
  - How does the money work?
  - When does all this happen?
- Application Overview

# How did we get here?

- June 2017: Senate Bill 1882 Passed
- July 2023: Admin Retreat Presentation
- Oct. 2024: Board Meeting: Discussed SB 1882 within context of System of Great Schools
- Nov. 2024: Pathways to Possibility Tour
- Dec. 2024: Applied for School Action Fund-Partner Managed Planning Grant
- Feb. 2025: Awarded Grant

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# What is it?

## **The School Action Fund (SAF) Grant : Partner-Managed**

- Funds our planning year work as we explore creating an 1882 partnership
  - Planning Year: Supports design, community engagement, policy adoption, and selection of a partner
- Prepares us to meet SB 1882 Partnership requirements and apply for benefits
- Just an FYI: You can enter into a SB 1882 Partnership without a SAF Grant

## **Texas Partnership (Senate Bill 1882)**

- A partnership between a district and an operating partner
  - Partner Categories
    - Colleges and Universities
    - Non-profit Organizations
    - Government Entities
    - Charter Organizations
- District authorizes and the Partner operates
- District retains oversight and accountability role

# What is it? (cont.)

## Summary

SAF grant is about getting ready and potentially launching the partnership...

....Local Partnerships (SB 1882) are about running and sustaining the partnership



# What is the Building Brighter Futures: Call for Quality Schools?

***Building Brighter Futures*** in Abilene ISD's innovative strategic planning and development project intended to elevate it as the district of choice in Abilene and the Big Country. The program is intended to ensure that every AISD student has access to **exceptional academic experiences** and the **best possible learning resources** through a thoughtful evaluation of academic programming, enhancement of the operational efficiency of our district, and a commitment to the equitable allocation of resources and facilities that best meet student and family needs. Building Brighter Futures is about ensuring that every dollar spent, every program offered, and every facility utilized is **in service of Abilene ISD's mission** to equip learners to make a positive impact in their world through relevant, innovative, and challenging learning experiences.

As a part of ***Building Brighter Futures***, Abilene ISD is opening a ***Call for Quality Schools*** to request proposals from innovative school partners to identify, vet, and evaluate readiness for potential partnership with AISD. In doing so, AISD seeks to build high-quality potential partnerships to **increase the number of academic experiences, high-quality options, and maximize opportunities for our students and families.**

# 2023-2024 Texas Partnerships By the Numbers

97

SCHOOLS



78

Innovation  
Partnership Schools

44,000+

STUDENTS



19

Turnaround  
Partnership Schools

77

schools run by nonprofits,  
including 11 run by  
charter management  
organizations

18

schools run by  
higher education  
institutions

10

2

schools run by  
government  
entities



# Examples

**Community Schools**

**Dual Language**

**Montessori**

**Single-gender**

**IB**

**ACE**

**College and Career**

**Pre-K**

**Drop Out Recovery**

**Teacher Residency**

**Diverse Student  
Populations**

**Turnaround**

**Other Innovative  
Models**

# Successful SB 1882 Partnerships

## Texas Wesleyan University & FWISD (LAN Model)

**The Leadership Academy Network (LAN)** is a strong model of a university-led SB 1882 partnership:

- **Partner:** Texas Wesleyan University
- **District:** Fort Worth ISD
- **Scope:** 5 campuses, PK–8, previously low-performing
- **University Contact:**
- **Outcomes:**
  - STAAR Meets scores increased 17 points in reading and math
  - All five campuses improved from F/IR to B or A ratings
  - Received \$1.7 million in additional SB 1882 funding
- **University Contributions:**
  - Teacher residency and leadership development programs
  - Curriculum and instructional design
  - On-site research and data use coaching
  - Responsive teaching protocols and dual-language supports



# Successful SB 1882 Partnerships

## Midland ISD Pre-K Academy

Midland College partnered with Midland ISD to create the Pre-K Academy at Midland College, an SB 1882 innovation partnership designed to address regional early childhood education needs while advancing the College's academic mission.

- **Partner:** Midland College
- **District:** Midland ISD
- **Scope:** Pre-K Academy at Midland College (PK3–PK4)
- **Outcomes:**
  - Provides high-quality early education for over 200 students annually
  - Increased Pre-K access for families in underserved areas
  - Demonstrated kindergarten readiness and early literacy gains
- **University Contributions:**
  - MISD oversees instructional delivery and staffing; Midland College provides the campus and integrated programming support

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# Who does what?

## School District

## Operating Partner

## Texas Education Agency

- Acts as the decision maker and authorizer by granting the operating partner an in-district charter (TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C).
- Sets partnership parameters, selects the operator through a rigorous process, and approves the partnership contract.
- Monitors academic, financial, operational, and governance performance, and decides on renewal or termination.
- May also provide optional services to the partner for a fee.



# Who does what?

**School District**

**Operating Partner**

**Texas Education Agency**

- Runs the school with full control over staffing, curriculum, calendar, budget allocation, and daily operations.
- Implements the plan outlined in the partnership application and is accountable through a public governing board.
- Coordinates regularly with the district and may purchase district services (e.g., transportation, maintenance).
- Service agreements vary — partners can choose which district services to use during contract negotiations.





# Who does what?

**School District**

**Operating Partner**

**Texas Education Agency**

TEA does NOT approve partnerships or select partners. Rather, TEA approves certain benefits to districts who are eligible according to SB1882 and associated rules. Benefits include:

- Per pupil financial benefits
- Exemption for Turnaround Partnerships from certain state accountability requirements, including state closure mandates, for two years

TEA provides capacity-building and third-party technical support to district authorizers, including:

- School Action Fund planning and implementation grants
- Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy Training
- Model policies, applications, contracts, rubrics, and process documents



# Who does what? Helping understand the differences...

## Local Partnerships

- **Locally controlled** - approved and authorized by the district board, and monitored by district leadership
- **Part of the district** - CDCN(s) are listed within the ISD, and ADA/FSP funds generated by the TX Partnership stay within the ISD
- **Provides choices within district strategy** - diversifies district options by empowering home-grown educators, leveraging partners for different school models, or making bold actions in turnaround contexts
- **Also called** - SB1882 partnership, in-district charter, subchapter C charter

## State Charters

- **State controlled** - approved and authorized by the state (SBOE), and monitored by TEA
- **Part of a CMO** - often a charter management organization manages the network of schools, including ADA/FSP funds
- **Increases competition within districts** - introduces different school types and choices outside of districts but in regional proximity
- **Also called** - charter school, CMOs, subchapter D charter



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# How does the money work?

## School Action Fund Grant

- \$185,000 for planning, \$500,000 - \$1M for implementation (depending on school action and year), all amounts per campus
- Annual deadline in December
- Eligibility based on comprehensive/ targeted title 1 campuses
- One-time funds with opportunity for non-competitive continuation of planning grant into implementation
- Funds are restricted with wide eligibility for expenditure

## Charter Start-up Program Grant

- \$900,000 per campus
- Must meet TEA charter authorizing requirements, must meet Federal definition of charter school
- Competitive TEA grant in a pool with sub C and sometimes also sub D charter schools
- Application deadlines typically 2x/year (Nov-Jan, Apr-Jun)
- One-time funds
- Funds are restricted, specific planning and implementation activities allowed

## SB1882 Per-Pupil Funds

- Range of \$0-\$1500 additional per student, average of \$911 in 21-22
- Must meet TEA requirements for SB1882 benefits (not a competitive grant)
- Annual application deadlines in December, January, and March
- Funding flows when partnership is operating (year delay)
- Annually recurring throughout the duration of the partnership
- Funds are general operating

**Campuses can receive and use all three sources at the same time**



# How does the money work?

## Example Budget Tool School-level Summary View

### Financial Summary - Local & 1882 FY25 Budget

<b>Total School-generated Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,395,985</b>
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#### Expenditures and Costs

Site-level Personnel	\$	4,623,717
Site-level Non-Personnel	\$	393,287
Central Administrative Fee	\$	377,363
Central Mandatory Services	\$	706,819
<b>Total Expenditures (before Optional Services)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,101,186</b>

<b>Budget Surplus / (Shortfall) before Optional Services</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>294,799</b>
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#### Optional Services Cost (Opt-in Only)

Communications	\$	4,495
Dual Language, ESL, & Migrant Students	\$	4,219
Extended Learning - After-School Services	\$	11,252
Extended Learning - Summer Learning	\$	49,006
Fine Arts	\$	14,901
Student and Academic Support	\$	2,042
Campus Transportation	\$	86,256
Organizational Learning	\$	13,119
SEAD and Restorative Practices	\$	25,673
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	\$	18,381
<b>Total Optional Services (Opt-in Only)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>229,342</b>

<b>Budget Suprlus / (Shortfall) after Optional Services</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>65,457</b>
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## Example Menu of Services

Optional Services - Non-Curriculum				
Communications	Optional	\$7.97	per pupil	Includes school social media, marketing, graphic design, and media spokesperson.
Dual Language, & ESL	Optional	\$24.67	per EL pupil	Includes: Bilingual Support Services (Dual Language and ESL Curriculum Implementation, Training, Resource Materials, District Personnel) and not compliance.
Extended Learning	Optional	\$106.84	per pupil	Includes after-school services and summer learning
Fine Arts	Optional	\$26.42	per pupil	Includes all department services in support of band, choir, orchestra, mariachi, art, theater and dance (except compliance).
Student and Academic Support - Central Office Technical Assistance	Optional	\$3.62	per pupil	Includes technical assistance and support provided to school leaders and administrators
Campus Transportation	Optional	based on actual campus expenses		Includes general education and special education bus routes
Organizational Learning	Optional	\$ 23.26	per pupil	Includes new teacher mentor services and programming for teacher leadership pathways. This also includes new teacher and leader induction and support, and district professional development for instruction and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

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# When does all this happen? Yearly cycle

## **Fall-Winter 2024**

### *Engage and Assess Needs*

- Strategic Footprint Committee
- Pathways to Possibilities

## **Spring-Summer 2025**

### *Design the Process*

- Develop and Finalize Call for Quality Schools
- Consider ELA Local Policy

## **Fall/Winter 2025**

### *Partner Review Process*

- Review applications
- Board approval to enter into contract negotiations

## **Winter 2025-Spring 2026**

### *Set Terms*

- Negotiate performance contract
- Board approval of contract terms
- Apply for SB 1882 benefits
- Begin implementation planning

## **Summer 2026**

### *Prepare for Launch*

- Staffing, planning, and pre-opening work

## **August 2026**

### *Launch Partner-Managed School*



# ELA (Local) Policy

ELA (Local) ensures that it is in policy that we:

- Have a clear, rigorous application and review process
- Build in transparency and public accountability
- Require a performance contract for any partner
- Have strong district oversight with clear evaluation checkpoints



# What is in the CQS application?

- **Narrative Proposal:** The proposal should provide a comprehensive and targeted description of the organization's educational model and organizational capacity to operate a partnership school with AISD. There are 5 sections of the proposal
  - Applicant Information
  - Educational Program
  - Governance, Operating Plan, and Capacity
  - Financial Plan
  - Existing School Operator Supplement (if applicable)
- **Attachments:** Throughout the proposal, specific documents are requested in addition to narrative answers. Each response must clearly address, articulate and correlate to the respective section (e.g. enrollment policy, org charts, financial plan).
- **Capacity Interview:** Applicants will have the opportunity to discuss their plan and demonstrate their team's capacity to open and maintain a high-quality partnership school and answer specific questions about their proposal.

# Who is the Evaluation Committee?

To provide a highly-rigorous and transparent vetting process, the Evaluation Committee shall include at least three highly-qualified members, and at least one must be a community member / non-district employee. Leveraging the TEA-approved evaluation rubric, the Evaluation Committee will conduct a rigorous, evidence-based, and merit-focused evaluation of all applications, including evaluating the proposed partner's capacity to meet the Board's established academic, financial, operational, and governance standards and qualifications, as well as the requirements for in-district 1882 Texas Partnership schools.

The AISD evaluation committee will...

- ▶ Evaluate prospective AISD Building Brighter Future partner applications
- ▶ Conduct capacity interviews with qualified applicants
- ▶ Submit a formal recommendation to the Superintendent

# What does the Evaluation Committee do?

## SCORE APPLICATIONS

Review Committee will read the application in its entirety, including relevant attachments and addenda. Each committee member will be assigned specific sections to score. Scores will be averaged to identify a summative score for each question. Committee will convene to discuss individual ratings as a group and come to consensus on preliminary ratings, evidence, and open questions to ask during interviews.

## CAPACITY INTERVIEWS

If application meets minimum rating threshold, then applicant will be invited to capacity interview. Capacity interview will focus on probing questions for areas of concern identified by comments and ratings as a part of application scoring.

## COMMITTEE CONSENSUS

After capacity interview is conducted committee will reconvene to update ratings and align on recommendation. Committee lead will draft recommendation report to submit to Superintendent.

## RECOMMENDATION & VOTE

Superintendent will receive recommendation report and make a decision regarding the final recommendation to the School Board. Board will review recommendation for named partner. Contract negotiations will begin. Board will then vote on performance contract.



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- ~~Application Overview~~
- Questions?