



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 12/16/2025

Item Title: 2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program X **Action Information Discussion**

BACKGROUND:

The BISD Grants Department successfully submitted and received the 2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant in the amount of \$252,149 to support campuses in complying with House Bill 1481. This funding will assist schools in purchasing secure storage solutions and developing the infrastructure necessary to effectively implement the personal communication device ban.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no cost to the district.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve acceptance of the 2025–2026 Phone-Free Schools Grant from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in the amount of \$252,149. The grant will support schools in purchasing secure storage solutions and implementing the necessary infrastructure to enforce the personal communication device ban in compliance with House Bill 1481. The grant period is September 22, 2025, through August 31, 2026, and carries no cost to the district.

L.J. DeLeon/Diana E. Barron

Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Dr. Nereida "Nellie" Cantu
Recommended by: Chief Operations Officer

Mary D. Garza/Dr. Nereida "Nellie" Cantu
Approved by: Chief Officer

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

12/11/25



Organization: BROWNSVILLE ISD

County District: 031901

Campus/Site: N/A

ESC Region: 01

SAS #: CELLAA26

Vendor ID: 1746000418

School Year: 2025-2026


Notice of Grant Award

Application Submit Date: 10/7/2025

Amendment Number: 00

NOGA ID/ Reimbursement ID	Name of Grant Program	FAR Fund Code	FAR Rev Code	CFDA #	Federal Aid Agency	TEA USE Only	Begin Date	End Date	Increase (Decrease)	Amount
26015401031901	2025-2026 PHONE FREE SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM	429	5829			01542601	9/22/2025	8/31/2026	\$0.00	\$252,149.00

Application and any amendment thereto identified above, Received Date/Document Control Number/Application ID **003918026841**, as revised or negotiated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) hereby incorporated by reference and, therefore, made a part of this grant award. Also incorporated by reference into this grant award are the Provisions and Assurances contained in the incorporated application, the Request for Application (if applicable), the instructions to completing the Standard Application System (SAS), any guidelines which accompany the applications, including program and fiscal guidelines, and any and all attachments or appendices submitted by the applicant or included by TEA. This grant is made contingent upon the availability of funds from the funding entity to the Texas Education Agency for distribution to the subgrantee named above. If funding is not received, TEA assumes no liability for costs incurred by the grant recipient.

<p>Offer Accepted by Grantee</p> <p>The digital signature of the applicant's authorized officer contained on the applicant's application referred to above, is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this grant/award contract</p>	<p>Approval ID of the Commissioner of Education or Designee Texas Education Agency</p>	<p>Date</p>
		<p>11/16/2025</p>

**Texas Education Agency
Supplement to Notice of Grant Award (NOGA)**

1	Subrecipient Name BROWNSVILLE ISD 1900 PRICE RD BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521	2	Subrecipient Unique Entity Identifier CDN: 031901
3	Subrecipient Information		
	Grant name:	2025-2026 PHONE FREE SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM	
	Subaward period of performance start and end date:	See NOGA certificate	
	Amount of federal funds obligated by this action:	Not applicable	
	Total amount of federal funds awarded:	Not applicable	
	Indirect cost rate:	4.776%	
	De minimis indirect cost rate:	Not applicable	
	Research and development grant:	Not applicable	
4	Subrecipient Terms and Conditions		
	<p>(1) New EDGAR including 2 C.F.R. Part 200 does not apply</p> <p>(2) Grant program requirements</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(a) Incorporated by reference in General and Fiscal Guidelines</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(b) Incorporated by reference in Program Guidelines</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(c) Incorporated by reference in General Provisions and Assurances</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(d) Incorporated by reference in Program-Specific Provisions and Assurances (if applicable)</p> <p>(3) Additional requirements</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Incorporated by reference in the To The Administrator Addressed correspondence sent to grantee as applicable</p> <p>(4) Access to subrecipient records</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">The subrecipient must permit TEA as the pass-through entity and auditors to have access to the subrecipient's records and financial statements as necessary for TEA to meet the requirements of this section.</p> <p>(5) Closeout of subaward</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(a) Incorporated by reference in General and Fiscal Guidelines</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(b) Incorporated by reference in NOGA transmittal letter</p>		
5	Name of Pass-Through Entity Texas Education Agency	6	Contact Information for TEA Awarding Official See NOGA certificate
7	Federal Award Information		
	Federal awarding agency:	Not applicable	
	Federal award identification number:	Not applicable	
	CFDA number:	Not applicable	
	CFDA name:	Not applicable	
	Federal award date:	Not applicable	
	Total amount of federal award:	Not applicable	
8	Federal Award Project Description Not applicable		



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SAS#: CELLAA26

2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

General Information
 GS2000 - Certify and Submit

Due: 12/10/2025 11:59 PM
 Application Status: Submitted

Amendment #: 00
 Version #: 01

Description	Required	Status	Last Update
General Information			
GS2100 - Applicant Information	*	Complete	10/07/2025 12:21 PM
GS2300 - Negotiation Comments and Confirmation		New	
Program Description			
PS3013 - Program Plan	*	Complete	10/07/2025 12:21 PM
Program Budget			
BS6001 - Program Budget Summary and Support	*	Complete	10/07/2025 12:26 PM
BS6201 - Professional and Contracted Services	*	Complete	10/07/2025 12:26 PM
Provisions Assurances and Certifications			
CS7000 - Provisions, Assurances and Certifications	*	Complete	10/07/2025 12:27 PM

Certification and Incorporation Statement

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 further certify that any ensuing program and activity will be conducted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations; application guidelines and instructions; the general provisions and assurances, debarment and suspension certification, lobbying certification requirements, special provisions and assurances, and the schedules submitted. It is understood by the applicant that this application constitutes an offer and, if accepted by the Texas Education Agency or renegotiated to acceptance, will form a binding agreement.

Authorized Official Select Contact: or

First Name: Dr. Jesus	Initial:	Last Name: Chavez	Title: Superintendent
Phone: 956-698-0014	Ext:	E-Mail: jhchavez@bisd.us	

Submitter Information

First Name: Jesus	Last Name: Chavez
Approval ID: jesus.chavez7	Submit Date and Time: 10/07/2025 02:53:25 PM



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2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

General Information GS2100 - Applicant Information

Part 1: Organization Information

A. Applicant		
Organization Name: BROWNSVILLE ISD		
Mailing Address Line 1: 1900 PRICE RD		
Mailing Address Line 2:		
City: BROWNSVILLE	State: TX	Zip Code: 78521

B. Unique Entity Identifier (SAM)
UEI (SAM):

Part 2: Applicant Contacts

A. Primary Contact		Select Contact:	Select One	or	Add New Contact
First Name: Dr. Jesus	Initial:	Last Name: Chavez			
Title: Superintendent					
Telephone: 956-698-0014	Ext.:	E-Mail: jhchavez@bisd.us			

B. Secondary Contact		Select Contact:	Select One	or	Add New Contact
First Name: Mary	Initial: D	Last Name: Garza			
Title: Finance Director					
Telephone: 956-548-8311	Ext.: 8311	E-Mail: mdgarza@bisd.us			



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2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

General Information GS2300 - Negotiation Comments and Confirmation

Part 1: General Comments

General Comments (TEA Use Only)	

Part 2: Negotiation Items

This schedule is for TEA to document any required changes and communications to the applicant in the event this application requires negotiation. It will also require applicants to acknowledge that they have made the changes requested.

Applicants: For all negotiation notes below, please make the requested changes in the grant application itself.

- Please do check the "Change Completed" box.
- Please do not enter information in the "Grantee Comments" section, unless you are specifically instructed to do so.

Negotiation Items											
1.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Date: <input type="text"/></td> <td style="width: 50%;">Schedule: <input type="text" value="Select One"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TEA Negotiation Note:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="height: 50px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Grantee Comments:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 50px;"></td> </tr> </table>	Date: <input type="text"/>	Schedule: <input type="text" value="Select One"/>	TEA Negotiation Note:				Grantee Comments:			
Date: <input type="text"/>	Schedule: <input type="text" value="Select One"/>										
TEA Negotiation Note:											
Grantee Comments:											

Add Row

Delete Row



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2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

Program Description PS3013 - Program Plan

A. Statutory/Program Assurances

1. The following assurances apply to this program. In order to meet the requirements of the program, the applicant must comply with these assurances. Selecting all assurances is required.
- 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.
 - The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Statutory and TEA Program requirements as noted in the 2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program Guidelines.
 - The applicant provides assurance to adhere to all the Performance Measures, as noted in the 2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program Guidelines, and shall provide to TEA, upon request, any performance data necessary to assess the success of the program.
 - 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 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 206, 1 TAC Chapter 213, Federal Section 508 standards, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 level AA.
 - The applicant acknowledges that Per Section 22.0834 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Fingerprinting Requirement.
 - The applicant will adopt, implement, and ensure the district or school complies with a written policy prohibiting a student from using a personal communication device while on school property during the school day.
 - The applicant assures the written policy will include the following elements: The policy must prohibit student use of personal communication devices as defined in Texas Education Code (TEC), 37.082(d), which includes cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, and other devices capable of telecommunication or digital communication on school property during the school day. This does not include an electronic device provided to a student by the applicant.
 - The applicant assures compliance with the written policy requirement by either prohibiting students from bringing devices to campus, or designating a method to securely store the devices during the school day.
 - The applicant assures the written policy will also include disciplinary measures for violations and may include confiscating a device. School districts may dispose of unclaimed confiscated items after providing written notice to the student's parent or guardian at least 90 days prior to disposal.
 - The applicant assures the written policy will make exceptions for student use of personal communication devices when: 1. Required to implement an individualized education program (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or similar plan; 2. Authorized by a directive from a qualified physician due to documented medical need; or 3. Necessary to comply with the legal health or safety requirement or to implement the school system's safety protocols.
 - The applicant assures the written policy will be adopted as soon as practicable but no later than September 18, 2025.



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2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

Program Budget
 BS6001 - Program Budget Summary and Support

Statutory Authority: SB 1 Sec. 18.16. Contingency for House Bill 1481

Part 1: Available Funding

Available Funding	
Description	Phone Free Schools Grant
1. Fund/SSA Code	429
2. Planning Amount	
3. Final Amount	\$252,149
4. Carryover	
5. Reallocation	
Total Funds Available	\$252,149

Part 2: Budget Summary

A. Budgeted Costs		
Description	Class/Ob_jct Code	Phone Free Schools Grant
1. Consolidated Administrative Funds		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
2. Payroll Costs	6100	
3. Professional and Contracted Services	6200	
4. Supplies and Material	6300	\$252,149
5. Other Operating Costs	6400	
6. Debt Services	6500	
7. Capital Outlay	6600	
8. Operating Transfers Out	8911	
Total Direct Costs		\$252,149
9. Indirect Costs		
Total Budgeted Costs		\$252,149
Total Funds Available Minus Total Costs		\$0
10. Payments to Member Districts of SSA	6493	



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2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

**Program Budget
 BS6001 - Program Budget Summary and Support**

B. Pre-Award Costs		
Description	Class/ Object Code	Phone Free Schools Grant
1. Payroll Costs	6100	
2. Professional and Contracted Services	6200	
3. Supplies and Material	6300	\$252,149
4. Other Operating Costs	6400	
5. Debt Services	6500	
6. Capital Outlay	6600	
7. Operating Transfers Out	8911	
Total Direct Costs		\$252,149
8. Indirect Costs		
Total Pre-Award Costs		\$252,149

C. Breakout of Direct Admin Costs

Part 2C Breakout of Direct Admin Costs is hidden because it does not apply to the funding source(s) for this grant application.



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2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

Program Budget
 BS6201 - Professional and Contracted Services

Part 1: Professional and Contracted Services

Budgeted Costs		
Description	Class/Ob_jct Code	Phone Free Schools Grant
1. Rental or Lease of Buildings, Space in Buildings, or Land	6269	
2. Professional and Consulting Services	6219 6239 6291	
Subtotal Professional and Contracted Services Costs		
Remaining 6200 Costs That Do Not Require Specific Approval		
Total Professional and Contracted Services Costs		

Part 2: Direct Administrative Costs

Part 2 Breakout of Direct Administrative Costs is hidden because it does not apply to the funding source(s) for this grant application.

Part 3 : Itemized Professional and Consulting Services

Itemized Professional and Consulting Service (6219, 6239, 6291)	
Description	Phone Free Schools Grant
1. Service:	
Specify Purpose:	
<input type="button" value="Add Item"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Item"/>	
Total Professional and Consulting Services Costs	



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2025-2026 Phone Free Schools Grant Program

Provisions Assurances CS7000 - Provisions, Assurances and Certifications

Provisions, Assurances and Certifications

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify my acceptance and compliance with all General and Fiscal Guidelines.	General and Fiscal Guidelines
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify my acceptance and compliance with all Program Guidelines.	Program Guidelines
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify my acceptance and compliance with all General Provisions and Assurances requirements.	General Provisions and Assurances
4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I also certify my acceptance and compliance with all Debarment and Suspension Certification requirements. I certify I am not debarred or suspended.	Debarment and Suspension Certification
5. Choose the appropriate response for Lobbying Certification: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify this organization does not spend federal appropriated funds for lobbying activities and certify my acceptance and compliance with all Lobbying Certification requirements. b. <input type="checkbox"/> This organization spends non-federal funds on lobbying activities and has attached the required OMB Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form, as described below. Instructions for completing and attaching the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Print and sign the form.• Scan the signed form and save it to your desktop.• Click the Attach Files icon on the Table of Contents page to attach your signed form to this eGrants application.	Lobbying Certification

SSA Funding Report

Region	County District	Organization	ADC Submitted Date								
				R:	R:	R:	R:	R:	R:	R:	R:
Total:				R: \$0	R: \$0	R: \$0	R: \$0	R: \$0	R: \$0	R: \$0	R: \$0