



TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Ave. ★ Austin, Texas 78701-1494 ★ 512/463-9734 ★ FAX: 512/463-9838 ★ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.
Commissioner

October 22, 2006

Dear Superintendent:

The Texas Education Agency is preparing for the second cycle of the Texas Educator Excellence Grant (TEEG). This program provides grants to schools to establish and implement performance-based incentive programs for teachers and other personnel. Approximately \$100,000,000 in funds will be awarded to districts on behalf of eligible campuses in non-competitive grants. Schools invited to apply must fall within the top half of campuses within their school type in percentage of educationally disadvantaged students. Campuses participating in alternative accountability procedures (AEA) are included if they are within the top third of campuses within their school type. Those schools must also:

- Have accountability ratings of Exemplary or Recognized, or
- Rank in the top quartile of Comparable Improvement in either reading or math
- For AEA campuses, performance is evaluated based on passing rates on TAKS reading and math assessments

The Texas Education Agency has identified schools that meet the grant requirements for educationally disadvantaged students based on data from last year. **One or more campuses in your district meet these requirements.** These schools may be eligible to apply for TEEG provided they meet the campus performance criteria described above in 2006-07 and are selected for the final eligibility list. Please see the attachment for additional information about eligibility criteria. The preliminary list of identified schools is posted on the TEA website at

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/>

Please review this list and notify the identified campuses in your district that they have an opportunity for their teachers, administrators, and other personnel to be awarded for their hard work in helping their students meet high academic standards. Grant funds earned through this program will be used to reward staff for their accomplishments and to implement other programs to improve student learning.

The final list of campuses invited to apply will be published in August 2007 once accountability ratings for 2006-07 have been reported. At that time, we will notify you of campuses in your district that have met the performance requirement and have been invited to apply for grant funds.

If you have questions about the TEEG program, please contact the Office of Education Initiatives at (512) 936-6060.

Sincerely,

Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

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"Good, Better, Best—never let it rest—until your good is better—and your better is BEST!"

Texas Educator Excellence Grant

The Texas Educator Excellence Grant provides awards to campuses to establish and implement performance-based incentive programs for teachers and other personnel. The majority of funds are used to award classroom teachers for exemplary performance related to improving student learning. Funds may also be used for professional development and other activities that support improved teaching and student learning.

Eligibility Requirements

The Texas Education Code, Chapter 21, Subchapter N states that campuses eligible for the Texas Educator Excellence Grant must meet the following requirements:

- Ranking in the top half of the state's elementary, middle or junior high, high school, or all-grade campuses in the percentage of educationally disadvantaged students enrolled at the campus

AND

- Rated Exemplary or Recognized OR ranked in the top quartile of campuses in comparable improvement in mathematics or reading

Alternative education (AEA) campuses must have at least 30 students enrolled and must be ranked in the top third of the state's campuses in the percentage of educationally disadvantaged students enrolled at the campus, based on school type. AEA campuses meeting this criterion will be determined eligible based on passing rates on state student assessments. Campuses that are rated Academically Unacceptable or do not receive accountability ratings are not eligible.

Minimum Percentages for Educationally Disadvantaged Students

For the 2007-08 cycle of TEEG, eligibility will be based on educationally disadvantaged data from 2005-06 and accountability data from 2006-07. Campuses ranking in the top half in percentage of educationally disadvantaged students must meet required performance criteria in 2006-07 to be invited to apply. Campuses must be at or above the following percentages of educationally disadvantaged students for their school type, based on 2005-06 data, to be considered for eligibility.

<u>School Type</u>	<u>Regular Campuses</u>	<u>AEA Campuses</u>
All Grades	54.5%	91.8%
Elementary	67.3%	100%
Middle/Junior High	53.7%	91.8%
High School	42.4%	71.4%

Final eligibility will be based on additional performance criteria. Campuses with the highest percentages of educationally disadvantaged students in combination with performance will be selected first. The final eligibility list is expected to be published in August 2007.

Comparable Improvement

Comparable Improvement (CI) is a measure that calculates how student performance on the TAKS test has changed (or grown) from one year to the next, and compares the change to that of the 40 schools that are demographically most similar to the target school. (Source: *2006 Accountability Manual*, <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2006/manual/>)

Information about a campus's performance on the Comparable Improvement measure can be found in the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) reports. These reports are available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis/index.html>. AEIS reports for 2005-06 will be online in late November 2006. **Comparable Improvement data and accountability ratings for 2006-07 will be used to determine eligibility for TEEG.**

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