

TLPG Application Review Process

Submissions

Applications were submitted both online and in hard copy. Hard copy applications were scanned into the data base. A total of 185 Applications were submitted from 152 school districts and 33 open enrollment charter schools.

Eligibility Screening

Each application was screened to determine its eligibility for review. The eligibility factors were:

1. SES – the applicants were required to have a minimum of 40% of their students classified as economically disadvantaged in order to be reviewed.
2. Technology Plan on file – each applicant was required to have a Technology Plan on file as approved or in process with TEA. The complete list of applicants was submitted to TEA for verification of the existence of a Technology Plan.
3. Compliance with Grant Guidelines
 - a. A maximum grant amount was clearly indicated based upon enrollment. Applications requesting an amount that exceeded the maximum available by more than 10% were not reviewed.
 - b. Multiple Applications – districts and charter schools were allowed to submit only one application per district or charter. Some charter schools interpreted this to mean that they could submit an application for each charter. Charter schools who submitted multiple applications for different charter campuses with the same chief executive and same business address were permitted to select one of their applications for review.
4. Completeness of application – applications that were blank or that contained multiple required schedules that were left blank were not reviewed.

As a result of screening for eligibility, a total of 24 applications were not reviewed.

Review Process

Initial Reviews

A pool of 45 reviewers consisting of active and retired educators, with experience in instructional technology and representing both k-12 and higher ed were randomly assigned 161 applications to review. Each application was reviewed by 3 reviewers, using a rubric allowing full or partial credit for indicators in each of five criteria: Demonstration of Need, Quality of Budget, Quality of Management Plan, Quality of Implementation Plan, and Overall Effectiveness. A total of 70 points could be awarded to each application. The scores of the three reviewers for each application were averaged to create a composite score for each applicant.

Second Reviews

The review scores were analyzed for consistency among the three initial reviewers. In the cases where there was an outlier – one reviewer’s total was 20 or more points different from both of the other reviewers’ totals – an additional reviewer was assigned. Where the 4th reviewer’s score was in line with those of the two initial reviewers who were not outliers, the outlier score was replaced by the 4th reviewer's score; where the 4th reviewer’s score was in line with the outlier, the 4 scores were averaged to create the composite score.

Priority Points and Final Ranking

The average composite score for all of the applicants was 61.67 (88%). Initially, applicants receiving a composite score of 60 (85%) or higher were awarded bonus points for:

1. Not having received a prior grant that could have been used for the same or a similar purpose – 10 bonus points;
2. 1 point, up to a maximum of 25 points, for each percentage point above the state average for low SES (59.2%).

The final ranking was determined by the total of composite score and bonus points. Additionally, applicants receiving a composite score of 63 (90%) or higher were recommended to be funded regardless of the number of bonus points for which they were eligible. An analysis of the total grant dollars awarded showed that there would be a small amount of funding remaining. The threshold for receiving bonus points was adjusted to 58 (82%) to fully utilize the funds available.

Grants Awarded

A total of 124 Grants are recommended for award, for a total of \$9,715,085, as follows:

Enrollment >10,000 – 18 Grants totaling \$2,214,706;

Enrollment between 1600-9999 – 45 Grants totaling \$4,475,099; and

Enrollment <1600 – 61 Grants totaling \$3,025,986