

**School Year 2021-2022
COVID-19 School Health Support Grant
(Grants to Schools) FAQ
February 16, 2021**

COVID-19 School Health Support Grant (Grants to Schools)

1. Do we have to participate in the testing program to apply for this grant?

No. A public school system does not have to opt into the K-12 COVID-19 testing program to apply for these grant dollars.

2. When is the deadline for this grant? New November 4, 2021

See the grant timeline below:

Tentative Date	Action
November 4, 2021 (Today)	Announcement and release of COVID-19 School Operations and Support Grant Program and application. Application program guidelines, planning amount allocations, and the application are available here .
December 9, 2021	Grant applications due
January 14, 2022	Initial First Cash Advance Grant Payments Initiated. Unrequested grant allocations will be reallocated.
March 2022	Grant End Date
May 2022	Grantee Closeout; Final Grantee Expenditure Documentation Due to TEA
June 31, 2022	TEA Grant Closeout

3. What are the allowable expenses for these dollars? Updated November 4, 2021

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At this time, the current allowable expenses will include:

1. PPE (including but not limited to masks, gloves, gowns, & face shields)
2. Hygiene and cleaning supplies
3. Portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or other small items that may allow for improved air circulation
4. Public health events that include students and other community members and are aimed at providing opportunities for increased detection and prevention of COVID-19
5. Vaccine promotion events and communications
6. COVID-19 testing-test kits, turn-key testing services, and related support services
7. Costs to obtain a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver
8. Partial funding for staff who will be conducting grant-related duties for screening testing or COVID prevention programs that are outside of the staff's regular duties
9. Other allowable uses pre-approved by the TEA grant program office

4. Can these grant dollars be used for working with outside vendors that are NOT currently on the [K-12 Testing Project Vendor Resource sheet](#)? **New February 16, 2021**

Yes, these funds can be used to work with outside vendors. Any opted-in public or private school system that chooses to work with outside vendors is still required to submit testing results; the results should be submitted via an excel template to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). [Please feel free to click on the Outside Vendor Reporting template.](#)

5. Can these grant dollars be used for payroll purposes or stipends? **Updated November 4, 2021**

Partial funding for staff conducting grant-related duties for screening testing or COVID prevention programs outside of the staff's regular duties is allowable.

The supplement, not supplant provision, does apply to this grant program.

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6. Where do we submit the CLIA waiver \$180.00 application fee for reimbursement? May we use the money allocated for COVID testing to help pay the \$180 CLIA waiver application fee? Updated November 4, 2021

The application fee is an allowable expense under the COVID-19 School Health Support Grant (Grants to Schools). If your school system would like reimbursement, please follow the same steps as you would for the other allowable expenses through this grant.

7. Will this grant be considered as “federal funding” for private school systems? November 4, 2021

Yes, private school systems that choose to apply will become recipients of federal assistance and will be required to follow all federal rules and regulations required when receiving federal disaster and grant funds.

8. What are some of the unallowable activities for this grant? November 4, 2021

Unallowable activities and use of funds for this grant may include but are not limited to the following:

- Debt service (lease-purchase)
- Major renovations or construction
- Tuition reimbursement
- Advisory Council
- Out-of-State Travel

If your school system is unsure if an activity is unallowable, please seek clarification by emailing COVIDCaseReport@tea.texas.gov

9. What are the performance measures for this grant? November 4, 2021

Recipients of this grant agree to collect data and report on mandatory performance measures as required by TEA in the timeline and format to be determined, including, but not limited to:

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1. Monthly progress reports addressing grant activities, testing usage and results, performance measures, and/or progress on milestones
2. Monthly fiscal or financial reports
3. Annual progress reports (APRs) that the CDC may later require.

**10. Can we use the funds from this grant to purchase cleaning equipment?
November 30, 2021**

No. Only cleaning supplies are allowable activities through this grant, typically items that can be disposed of once they are entirely used.

11. Can teachers at Pre-K Schools qualify for COVID testing if they attend joint meetings with K-12 teachers throughout the year? November 30, 2021

No. In order for a student and/or staff member to be eligible for this grant, they must work or attend a campus where they co-mingle/co-exist with K-12 staff and students.

12. Can we use funds to contract with an established brick-and-mortar test site such as Quest or LabCorp so that we can send students/parents to an easy-to-find place for COVID-19 testing? November 30, 2021

Yes. This is an allowable cost under this grant.

13. Can we hire a licensed or certified medical professional to analyze data and coordinate the vaccine/health events? November 30, 2021

Yes, but not vaccine or general health events; Covid testing only.

14. Our vendor requires testers to use iPads or iPhones. Can we use a grant to purchase this technology to support campus testing? November 30, 2021

No. This is not an allowable cost under this grant.

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15. Do pre-award costs have to be [EDGAR](#) compliant? **November 30, 2021**

Yes, the pre-award cost must adhere to EDGAR regulations.

16. Can we contract with a licensed or certified medical professional to carry out the grant requirements? **November 30, 2021**

Yes. This is an allowable cost under this grant.

17. Are desktop dividers and/or desk shields for nurse stations in schools allowable as PPE? **November 30, 2021**

Yes, desktop dividers and/or desk shields are considered PPE and are allowable under this grant.

18. Are our replacement filters for Water Bottle Fillers allowable since they are consumable supplies? **November 30, 2021**

No. This is not an allowable cost under this grant.

19. Can the grant cover other health supplies used in events: band-aids and/or general medical-related supplies? **November 30, 2021**

No. This is not an allowable cost under this grant.

20. We plan to hire off-duty firefighters as part-time, temporary employees to run the testing center for us. Can we use this grant to pay them? **November 30, 2021**

Yes. This is an allowable cost under this grant.

21. What funding codes should we use for this grant? **November 30, 2021**

- You may use fund code 289 (Federally Funded Special Revenue Funds)
- Revenue object code 5939 (Federal Revenues Distributed by State of Texas Government Agencies (Other than the Texas Education Agency) for the

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CK19-1904 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) COVID Reopening Schools grant.

- The shared services arrangement (SSA) fund code is 379 (Federally Funded Shared Services Arrangements).

**22. Can this grant be used to cover the cost of biohazard removal for used COVID-19 tests and reagents and other COVID-19 testing-related supplies?
December 9, 2021**

- Yes, biohazard waste removal is an allowable cost under this grant.

23. If I am a private school applying for this grant, how do I obtain a DUNS and Vendor ID if I do not have and or have never been issued these numbers to provide in the application? December 9, 2021

- In this case, the applicant would complete the application and submit it with "N/A" or a similar response at this time. The private school should then do the following to begin the process to be issued these numbers:

DUNS

- The school can register at <https://sam.gov/content/home>. The Federal Service Help Desk has several FAQs regarding entity registration. This [link](#) provides additional guidance. Please note that the DUNS will be phased out in the next few months, but new registrations will require a DUNS until then.

Vendor ID

- The school can contact [Tammy Davis](#) or [Reagan Sosebee](#) in TEA Accounting about getting set up as a vendor.