

# **eGrants**

## TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

July 18, 2006

<b>FUNDING AVAILABLE</b>
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TO THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANT ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: **eGrants** Abbreviated Standard Application System (EIGPAA07)  
Governor's Educator Excellence Award Program – Texas Educator Excellence Grant  
(Non-Competitive)

Dear Grant Applicants:

The Texas Education Agency's (TEA) web-based “**eGrants**” grant application system will be available to apply for the Governor's Educator Excellence Award Program – Texas Educator Excellence Grant beginning July 18, 2006.

**Eligible Applicants:**

This grant opportunity is available for selected campuses based on the following criteria:

Ranking within the top half of campuses with the highest percentages of educationally disadvantaged students enrolled at the campus. Schools were ranked from highest to lowest percentage within each school category—elementary, middle, high, and all grade campuses;

**AND**

Rating of exemplary or recognized;

**OR**

Top quartile performance with respect to Comparable Improvement in math or reading;

**OR**

For registered alternative education campuses rated under alternative accountability procedures: TAKS passing rates, rank within the top third within each school category with respect to percentage of educationally disadvantaged students. Only alternative education campuses with 30 or more students are eligible.

Applicants must also meet the following to be eligible for this grant:

Have submitted the required audit report for the immediate prior fiscal year to the TEA Division of Financial Audits. To be eligible to receive a Notice of Grant Award (NOGA), the annual audit must be determined by TEA to comply with the applicable standards;

Be financially stable as determined by the Division of Financial Audits. This determination will be made based upon financial and other information disclosed in the audit or compilation report. Financial stability will be considered before issuing a grant award and is a precondition for the award;

Must have a fully approved (not provisional) Certification of Financial Accounting System from the TEA Division of Financial Audits (applies to open-enrollment charter schools) to be eligible to receive a NOGA;

Must be in good standing and have a “positive record” in successfully managing grant programs if applying for competitive, noncompetitive, or continuation grants. A positive record includes but is not limited to the following:

- In compliance with all requirements and conditions of those grants and implementing the grant programs according to the timelines and descriptions proposed in the grant applications;
- On time with all required progress/activity reports and evaluation reports;
- No outstanding refunds for State and Federal grant programs to TEA;
- Not on warrant hold by the State Comptroller’s Office or by the TEA Division of Accounting;
- Not currently under investigation or audit by TEA.

For this particular grant program, any formula or discretionary grant refund due to TEA must be submitted to TEA within 60 days of the application due date (that is, by December 5, 2006).

The list of eligible districts and campuses is posted on TEA website at:  
<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/>.

**Mandatory Notice of Intent to Apply:**

Prospective applicants are required to submit the *Mandatory Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI)* by **August 10, 2006**, as specified in the eGrant. Failure to notify the TEA of the intent to apply will disqualify the applicant from submitting the application. The Mandatory Notice of Intent to Apply Form is posted on TEA website at: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/>.

**Description of Program:**

The purpose of these grants is to provide a system of financial incentives to award educators who demonstrate the ability to achieve higher levels of student academic performance. Grants will be awarded based on the percentage of educationally disadvantaged students and high levels of achievement or growth in student achievement. Applicants should plan for a starting date of no earlier than October 6, 2006 and an ending date of no later than August 31, 2008.

**Program Funding:**

This grant is non-competitive. A total of approximately \$100 million is available for funding the Governor’s Educator Excellence Award Program – Texas Educator Excellence Grant. This project is funded 100 percent from state funds, House Bill 1, Enacted in the Third Session of the 79th Legislative Session, Subchapter N, Awards for Student Achievement.

Applicants must submit one application for each eligible campus.

**Obtaining Access to eGrants:**

This Governor's Educator Excellence Award Program – Texas Educator Excellence Grant is available only through **eGrants** and may not be submitted through any other means. To participate in the **eGrants** system, simply request access to **eGrants** by completing and submitting the TEA SE Request for Access form available on the Grants homepage. You will receive a user name and password via email, usually within two weeks. Even if you already have a TEA SE user name for other applications, you must request access specifically for **eGrants**.

To apply for access to **eGrants**:

1. Open your web browser.
2. Type <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/grant/> (or click on the underlined link) into the web browser address bar to access the Grants homepage.
3. Under the "eGrants Toolbox," select "External Users: Apply for eGrants Logon."
4. Complete the TEASE Request for Access form, print the form, sign it, and have your superintendent or chief executive director/officer validate it with a signature.
5. Fax or mail the form to the contact listed on the form.

A TEA SE user name and password is ultimately required for each user of **eGrants**, including authorized officials such as superintendents and executive directors, employees or contractors who will assist in writing/completing the **eGrants**, grant personnel who will be reporting progress on the **eGrant** projects, individuals who are requested by TEA to review/score competitive grants (projected for Spring 2004), and business office personnel who will be filing expenditure reports and requesting payment for various **eGrants**. At a minimum, each applicant must have a TEA SE user name and password for one authorized official to submit the application. "View Only" versions of the applications and guidelines will be available on the Grants Website and will not require a TEA SE user name and password. However, to apply for these grants a TEA SE user name and password will be required.

**Availability and Due Date for the eGrant Application:**

The **eGrants** application system will be available beginning July 18, 2006 for eligible applicants to complete the required forms. The **eGrant** application should be submitted to TEA no later than October 5, 2006 in order to have a project beginning date of October 6, 2006.

**On-Line Resources:**

A complete set of on-line resources is available for applicants. The documents listed below should be accessed/viewed and/or printed from the Grants homepage (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/grant/>) **prior to July 18, 2006**.

Under "**eGrants** Toolbox":

- External Users: Apply for **eGrants** Logon
- Quick Reference: Form Navigation
- How To Apply - a comprehensive guide to setting up your computer and navigating through eGrants.
- General and Fiscal Guidelines - important guidelines that apply to all **eGrants**.

When the actual Governor's Educator Excellence Award Program – Texas Educator Excellence Grant is available in **eGrants** beginning July 18, 2006, other resources will be available and should be carefully reviewed by each applicant:

- Program Guidelines – program-specific guidelines that apply only to this Governor's Educator Excellence Award Program – Texas Educator Excellence Grant **eGrant**.
- Schedule Instructions – detailed instructions for completing each schedule/form in the **eGrant** application.

**Applicant's Conferences:**

Applicant's conferences will be held on August 16, 2006 and September 6, 2006 on the Texas Educational Telecommunication Network (TETN) available at each regional Education Service Center (ESC). In order to locate the nearest TETN facility, please contact the TETN site manager at your regional ESC. Questions relevant to the **eGrant** may be sent Karen Harmon at karen.harmon@tea.state.tx.us or faxed to 512-463-9811 prior to September 1, 2006. These questions along with other information will be addressed in the presentation. The conference will be open to all potential applicants and will provide prospective applicants an opportunity to receive general and clarifying information about the program and RFA.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, August 16, 2006	10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	Each of the Regional Education Service Centers Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN) Event #20645
Wednesday, September 6, 2006	9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Each of the Regional Education Service Centers TETN Event #TBD

Each person attending will be required to sign a register and provide the representative's name, the applicant organization represented, its name, address and telephone number. ***Because of the number of eligible campuses, please limit your attendance to one person per district.***

The entire **eGrants** Training will be videotaped. Prospective applicants who are not able to attend the Applicant's Conference may request a copy of the videotape at no charge from the TEA Division of Discretionary Grants.

Contact Information
Sharon Evans Discretionary Grants 1701 North Congress Avenue Austin, Texas 78701-1494 (512) 463-9269 <a href="mailto:sharon.evans@tea.state.tx.us">sharon.evans@tea.state.tx.us</a>

**For Further Information:**

For clarifying information about the **eGrants** application, contact Karen Harmon, Division of Discretionary Grants, Texas Education Agency, (512) 463-9269. Any additional information, that is different from or in addition to, information provided in the **eGrant** will be posted on the TEA website in the format of *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQs) at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/index.html>.

We'll see you online!

Division of Discretionary Grants