

# **U.S. Department of Education**

Washington, D.C. 20202-5335



## **APPLICATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE**

**STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM RECOVERY ACT GRANTS  
CFDA # 84.384A  
PR/Award # R384A100013**

Closing Date: NOV 19, 2009

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**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

Version 02

* 1. Type of Submission	* 2. Type of Application:* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	* Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision	

* 3. Date Received:	4. Applicant Identifier:
12/4/2009	

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:	* 5b. Federal Award Identifier:
	NA

**State Use Only:**

6. Date Received by State:	7. State Application Identifier:

**8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

\* a. Legal Name: Texas Education Agency

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	* c. Organizational DUNS:
746003079	179260856

**d. Address:**

* Street1:	1701 N. Congress Avenue
Street2:	
* City:	Austin
County:	Travis
State:	TX
Province:	
* Country:	USA
* Zip / Postal Code:	78701

**e. Organizational Unit:**

Department Name:	Division Name:
Technology Infrastructure	Finance & Operations

**f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:**

Prefix:	Mr.	* First Name:	Brian
Middle Name:			

\* Last Name: Rawson

Suffix:

Title: Director of Statewide Data Initiatives

Organizational Affiliation:

\* Telephone Number: (512)936-2383 Fax Number: (512)475-4293

\* Email: BRIAN.RAWSON@TEA.STATE.TX.US

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424** Version 02

**9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

\* Other (specify):

**10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Department of Education

**11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:**

84.384A

CFDA Title:

Statewide Longitudinal Data System Recovery Act Grants

**\* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

ED-GRANTS-072909-001

Title:

Institute of Education Sciences;(IES) Grant Program for Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Recovery Act Program (ARRA) CFDA 84.384A

**13. Competition Identification Number:**

84-384A2009-1

Title:

Statewide Longitudinal Data System Recovery Act Grants

**14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):**

State of Texas

**\* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Texas Longitudinal Data System

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

Version 02

**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

\* a. Applicant: 21

\* b. Program/Project: TX-ALL

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

**Attachment:**

Title :

File :

**17. Proposed Project:**

\* a. Start Date: 9/1/2010

\* b. End Date: 8/31/2013

**18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

a. Federal	\$ 19645382
b. Applicant	\$ 1016054
c. State	\$ 0
d. Local	\$ 0
e. Other	\$ 0
f. Program Income	\$ 0
g. TOTAL	\$ 20661436

**\* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .

b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

**\* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)**

Yes  No

**21. \*By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications\*\* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances\*\* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

\*\* I AGREE

\*\* The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

**Authorized Representative:**

Prefix: Mr. \* First Name: Reginold  
Middle Name: D  
\* Last Name: Pegues  
Suffix:

Title: Acting Chief Financial Officer

\* Telephone Number: (412)463-4330 Fax Number: (512)475-1706

\* Email: REGINOLD.PEGUES@TEA.STATE.TX.US

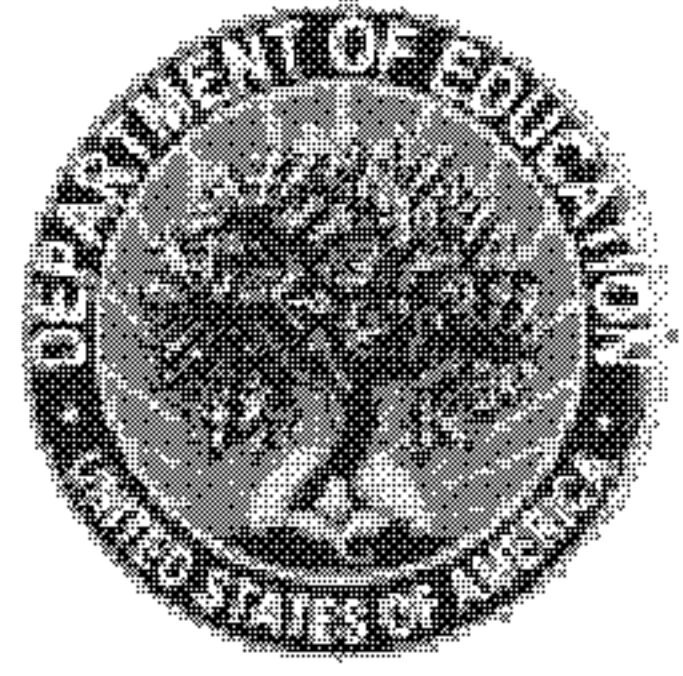
\* Signature of Authorized Representative: \* Date Signed:

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

Version 02

**\* Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BUDGET INFORMATION

NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization: Texas Education Agency

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDS

Table with 7 columns: Budget Categories, Project Year 1(a), Project Year 2 (b), Project Year 3 (c), Project Year 4 (d), Project Year 5 (e), Total (f). Rows include Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Construction, Other, Total Direct Costs, Indirect Costs, Training Stipends, and Total Costs.

\*Indirect Cost Information (To Be Completed by Your Business Office):

If you are requesting reimbursement for indirect costs on line 10, please answer the following questions:

(1) Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government? [X] Yes [ ] No

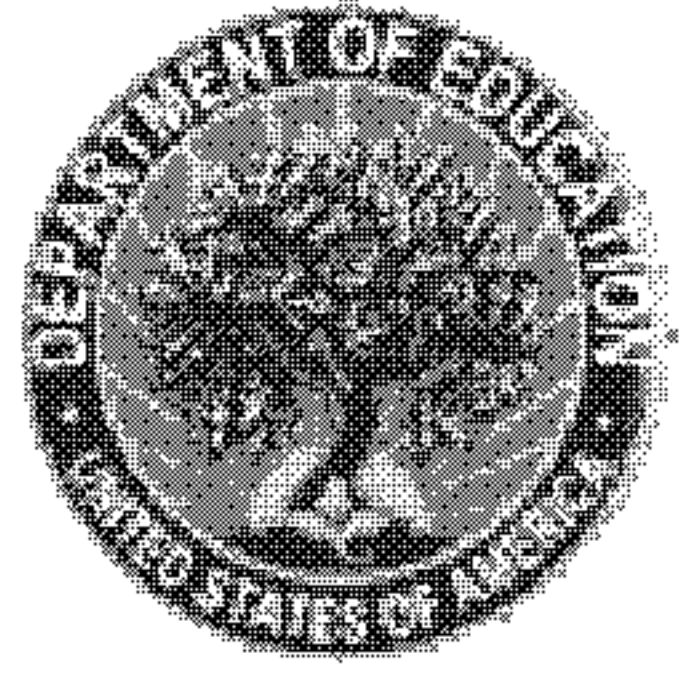
(2) If yes, please provide the following information:

Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: From: 9/1/2009 To: 8/31/2010 (mm/dd/yyyy)

Approving Federal agency: [X] ED [ ] Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_ The Indirect Cost Rate is 16%

(3) For Restricted Rate Programs (check one) -- Are you using a restricted indirect cost rate that:

[ ] Is included in your approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? or, [ ] Complies with 34 CFR 76.564(c)(2)? The Restricted Indirect Cost Rate is 0%



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**BUDGET INFORMATION**  
**NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

OMB Control Number: 1894-0008

Expiration Date: 02/28/2011

Name of Institution/Organization:  
Texas Education Agency

Applicants requesting funding for only one year should complete the column under "Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should complete all applicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.

**SECTION B - BUDGET SUMMARY**  
**NON-FEDERAL FUNDS**

Budget Categories	Project Year 1(a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Total (f)
1. Personnel	\$ 284,700	\$ 213,700	\$ 247,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 745,900
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 51,164	\$ 37,846	\$ 49,987	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 138,997
3. Travel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
4. Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
5. Supplies	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
6. Contractual	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
7. Construction	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	\$ 335,864	\$ 251,546	\$ 297,487	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 884,897
10. Indirect Costs	\$ 44,512	\$ 37,767	\$ 48,878	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 131,157
11. Training Stipends	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)	\$ 380,376	\$ 289,313	\$ 346,365	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,016,054



## ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Standard Form 424B (Rev.7-97)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States, and if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. "4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. "1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. '794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act
9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. "276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. '276c and 18 U.S.C. "874) and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. " 327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction sub-agreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. "1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clear Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clear Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. "7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. "1721 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance

of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. " 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) " 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. " 290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. ' 3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. "1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. '470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. "469a-1 et seq.).

14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. "2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. "4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead- based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this program.

**Signature of Authorized Certifying Representative:**

**Name of Authorized Certifying Representative:** Reginold Pegues

**Title:** Acting Chief Financial Officer

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2009

### Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352

<b>1. Type of Federal Action:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Loan <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Insurance	<b>2. Status of Federal Action:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Bid/Offer/Application <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Award <input type="checkbox"/> Post-Award	<b>3. Report Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Filing <input type="checkbox"/> Material Change <b>For Material Change only:</b> Year: 0 Quarter: 0 Date of Last Report:
<b>4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prime <input type="checkbox"/> Subawardee Tier, if known: 0  Name: Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -  <b>Congressional District, if known:</b>	<b>5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is a Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime:</b>  Name: Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -  <b>Congressional District, if known:</b>	
<b>6. Federal Department/Agency:</b>	<b>7. Federal Program Name/Description:</b>  CFDA Number, if applicable:	
<b>8. Federal Action Number, if known:</b>	<b>9. Award Amount, if known: \$0</b>	
<b>10. a. Name of Lobbying Registrant</b> (if individual, last name, first name, MI): Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -	<b>b. Individuals Performing Services</b> (including address if different from No. 10a) (last name, first name, MI): Address: City: State: Zip Code + 4: -	
<b>11.</b> Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.	Name: Title: Applicant: Texas Education Agency Date: 11/30/2009	
<b>Federal Use Only:</b>		Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form LLL (Rev. 7-97)

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements.

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal Loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance.

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee or any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

### APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION

Texas Education Agency

### PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Prefix:                  First Name: Reginold                          Middle Name: D  
 Last Name: Pegues    Suffix:  
 Title: Acting Chief Financial Officer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 11/30/2009

ED 80-0013

03/04

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
REQUIRED FOR  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANTS**

**1. Project Director:**

Prefix:      \* First Name:              Middle Name:              \* Last Name:              Suffix:  
Mr.          Reginold                              D                              Pegues

Address:

\* Street1:              1701 N. Congress  
Street2:  
\* City:                      Austin  
County:                      Travis  
\* State:                      TX\* Zip / Postal Code: 78701 \* Country: **USA**

\* Phone Number (give area      Fax Number (give area  
code)                              code)  
(512)463-4330                      (512)475-1706

Email Address:

REGINOLD.PEGUES@TEA.STATE.TX.US

**2. Applicant Experience**

Novice Applicant                       Yes               No               Not applicable

**3. Human Subjects Research**

Are any research activities involving human subjects planned at any time during the proposed project period?

Yes               No

Are ALL the research activities proposed designated to be exempt from the regulations?

Yes      Provide Exemption(s) #:

No      Provide Assurance #, if available:

**Please attach an explanation Narrative:**

**Attachment:**

Title :  
File :

# **Project Narrative**

## **Project Narrative - Project Abstract**

Attachment 1:

Title: **Project Narrative Project Abstract** Pages: **1** Uploaded File: **H:\SLDS\Texas ARRA SLDS Abstract.pdf**

## 5. PROJECT ABSTRACT – TEXAS STATEWIDE LDS

For over 20 years, Texas has demonstrated a strong commitment to thorough data collection and the use of data to support policy decisions. As a result, many of the required Data Elements for a statewide longitudinal data system are currently in place. However, the current systems do not effectively support increasing demands for timely, transparent, accessible, and actionable data across the P-20 continuum. In fact, despite the depth of student data collected, Texas only provides a limited amount of actionable data back to stakeholders. This application proposes improvements and extensions to the existing LDS that will bring the system capabilities for data collection, analysis, and reporting—at both the state and district level—in line with the attributes of a comprehensive longitudinal data system. The three goals and the associated ten outcomes of the proposed grant include the following:

*Integrate key data into the P-20 Data Warehouse to better understand students' preparedness to contribute to the twenty-first century workforce*

1. Load existing college readiness test score collections into the LDS
2. Expand the LDS to include pre-K, kindergarten and workforce data

*Alleviate Data Collection Burden on Districts and Improve Data Quality*

3. Realign statewide data collection standards and protocols for districts
4. Expand the architecture to support new standards and collection platform
5. Automate data collection through development of a state-sponsored SIS
6. Develop data services and loading the District Connections Database
7. Create District Connections Database extract certification and validation tools
8. Deploy statewide data collection and management platform pilot

*Build Performance Management Culture that Uses Data to Continuously Improve Performance*

9. Develop timely, relevant reports and user-friendly tools for stakeholders
10. Ensure compliance with Federal reporting and SFSF requirements

The proposed project will allow Texas to complete Systems Capabilities that address the need to provide quality, timely data to improve educational outcomes so that:

- Stakeholders can quickly learn about and respond to trends at the student, campus, and district level (*System Capability 5: Timely Reporting for Continuous Improvement*)
- Data quality can be improved through the implementation of new data standards and a statewide student information system (*System Capability 6: Data Quality*)
- Little known successes, residing in small districts or a few schools, can be discovered and shared to help others (*System Capability 2: Data Standards*)
- Legislation and education policy can become more proactive, yielding more timely results and addressing the broader education and employment continuum (*System Capability 5: Timely Reporting for Continuous Improvement*)
- The state and districts can flexibly respond to current and future federal reporting requirements (*System Capability 7: Federal Reporting Requirements*)

The end result of TEA's efforts will be a practical and powerful statewide data solution that will increase the availability of data to support the state's educational improvement efforts.

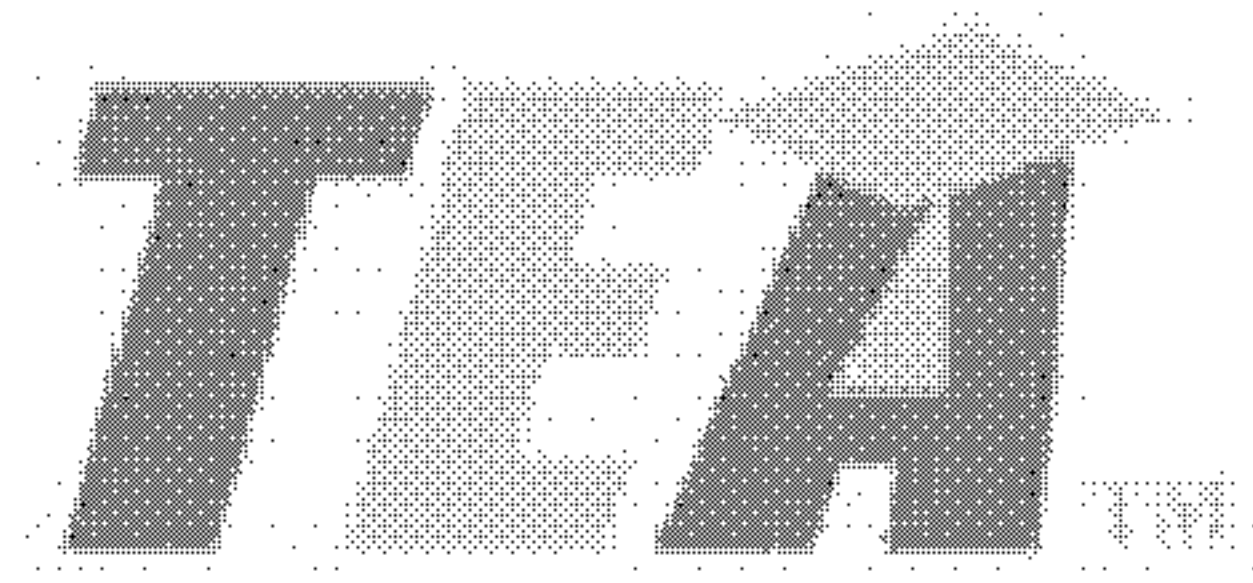
# Project Narrative

## Project Narrative - Project Narrative

Attachment 1:

Title: **Project Narrative - Project Narrative** Pages: **30** Uploaded File: **H:\SLDS\Texas ARRA SLDS ProjectNarrative.pdf**





**Texas Education Agency**

# Grant Application

## The Texas Statewide LDS

CFDA Number 84.384A

Submitted to

The U.S. Department of Education

Institute for Educational Sciences

December 1, 2009

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## 6. PROJECT NARRATIVE

### a. Need for the Project

#### ► *Introduction*

In response to the invitation for proposals for the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Texas Education Agency (TEA) proposes a three-year project that will allow the state to create a comprehensive longitudinal data system (LDS) that complies with the America COMPETES Act, enhances the capacity of the state and districts to use data for educational improvement, and addresses the information needs of all districts in the complex Texas education landscape.

Texas has been a leader in collecting critical education data, despite significant challenges posed by the state's size, geographic dispersion, and high economically disadvantaged population. Texas has historically emphasized the collection and reporting of data largely for state and federal compliance purposes, and as a result, many of the necessary Data Elements are already in place. However, the current process and tools for data collection, which require districts to submit data in line with TEA requirements, place a financial burden on districts, particularly small districts. A recent survey estimated that Texas districts collectively spend approximately \$323 million every year in order to submit their data to TEA. The existing LDS lacks critical capabilities to ease this data collection and submission process as well as to provide timely, actionable data to districts. These gaps limit the potential to use data effectively for early warning systems or to make ongoing decisions that support improved student achievement. The proposed LDS incorporates both enhanced data collection tools and student-level reporting and analysis tools to facilitate the use of timely, actionable data by all education stakeholders. By helping to shift emphasis more toward data *usage* and away from just data collection, the projects proposed under the grant will support TEA's goal of creating a culture of performance management based on data.

#### ► *Overview of the Texas Landscape and Current Data System*

The two principal agencies in Texas charged with gathering and publishing education data, TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), must accommodate a varied and geographically-scattered population of students and educational bodies. TEA works with over 1,200 independent K-12 school districts and charter districts across 8,000 campuses and charter schools, educating more than 4.6 million public school students. More than 80 percent of the 1,200 districts in Texas each have fewer than 5,000 students; over 60 percent have fewer than 1,000 students. Over half of the student population is economically disadvantaged, and over 60 percent is minority. In addition, there is a large and rapidly-growing English language learner population and a high frequency of student mobility. THECB is responsible for a total population of more than 1.2 million students and works with 35 public universities, 50 community college districts, 3 state colleges, 1 technical college system, 9 health-related institutions, and 43 independent colleges, universities, and junior colleges.

Although significant improvements are still necessary to meet the information needs of the fragmented Texas education environment, TEA and THECB already have some of the building blocks in place for an LDS. As described below, Texas' current LDS provides data to the public school districts, teachers, and policy makers through multiple reports on the agency's website. (For a visual depiction of the current system, please see Appendix A – Current TEA LDS Landscape.) Current elements of the LDS include the following:

*PEIMS.* TEA was an early developer of a student-record-level reporting system, called the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), designed to collect student- and school-level data from school districts to support program analysis. The student-record-level data collection and the accountability program it supports became a model for elements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program, which has driven other states to move toward a more granular level of accountability through data.

TEA developed PEIMS to facilitate accountability, funding allocations, and monitoring of Texas public schools. The PEIMS data collection includes four categories of information: education organizations, district finances, staff, and students. Organizations include schools, districts, shared service arrangements, and education service centers (ESCs). District financial data include budgets and expenditures. Staff information includes identifying and demographic information, as well as employment, salary, teaching experience, highest degree earned, and courses taught. Student information includes identifying and demographic information, enrollment, special program participation, attendance, course completion, graduates, non-returning students, and disciplinary actions. Students and staff are assigned a unique identifier that can be used to track their information across systems and across multiple years.

*TPEIR.* TEA has linked its K-12 data to the higher education data from THECB to examine how successfully Texas students are making the transition into a postsecondary environment. The P-20 data warehouse, the Texas Public Education Information Resource (TPEIR), is managed by TEA in partnership (through a memorandum of understanding [MOU]) with THECB. The warehouse currently contains eighteen years of P-12 data and seventeen years of higher education data from Texas colleges and universities, and information about teacher certification and teacher preparation programs. The warehouse enables users to link individual students from pre-K through enrollment and graduation from Texas colleges (P-20). Although standardized aggregate reports are available through the TPEIR website, the scope of reports is limited and there is at least a nine month lag before data are published.

*ERCs.* THECB oversees a network of state Education Research Centers (ERCs) established at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at Dallas, and Texas A&M University at College Station. Researchers gain access to confidential student data at an ERC once the project is approved by a Joint Advisory Board. The Joint Advisory Board is chaired by the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the board reviews and must approve all research using data protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The ERC Data Warehouse includes historical data across a number of agencies and systems, including: PEIMS P-12 student data, teacher and administrator employment data, and campus and district financial data; teacher certification data; teacher preparation program data; standardized student assessment results; assessment data from the College Board and ACT; postsecondary student data; and Texas Juvenile Probation data. TEA and THECB match and then de-identify all individual-level data to ensure that researchers can follow a student from pre-K through postsecondary and into the workforce.

### ■ **Identification of System Needs and Roadmap Vision**

The PEIMS system was designed in 1986 as a state-of-the-art state-level reporting system. Though undeniably strong and cutting edge at that point, the data structures and collection mechanisms within PEIMS have been in place for more than 20 years and are now badly in need of upgrading. Recognizing not only the need to improve its underlying architecture to collect and report data, but also improve the timeliness, relevance, and quality of information

available to all stakeholders, TEA has been actively engaged in a number of major projects, both privately and federally funded, to diagnose and address gaps in the existing LDS.

In late 2008, TEA secured funding from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) to initiate a study called the Texas Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting Systems Investigation (TDCARSI). The study formed the basis of a new roadmap for developing an enhanced statewide longitudinal data capability to improve the capacity for data-driven decision making among key education stakeholders within the state: educators, parents, administrators, and policymakers.

The vision outlined in TDCARSI was developed with detailed background research and extensive consultation with stakeholders through various channels, including **(1)** focus groups and interviews with over 250 districts and charters; 18 regional ESCs serving districts; **(2)** best practice surveys of five other states' education systems and processes (California, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, and Ohio); **(3)** a student information system (SIS) vendor forum with participants who have experience working with districts in Texas; and **(4)** a voluntary district survey to document their data collection burden and associated costs. In addition, among the 1,200 districts and charter schools surveyed in a follow-up study, an impressive 73 percent (876) responded, signaling the importance of the state's LDS to districts.

The key findings from the research regarding the system needs suggested that although Texas made progress on Data Elements, its systems did not completely satisfy the System Capabilities outlined in the SLDS ARRA proposal. The most critical gaps in System Capabilities include the following:

1. Districts spend too much time and money on collecting and submitting data rather than using reported student-level information to drive better outcomes. The survey that was conducted as part of the TDCARSI study estimated that Texas districts collectively spend \$323 million every year in order to submit their PEIMS data (System Capability 2: Data Standards and 6: Data Quality). Factors contributing to the data collection burden in districts include:
  - The need to modify district source system data to conform to PEIMS data collection structures and keep pace with changes to state and federal reporting requirements (over 40 percent of districts reported this need – on a statewide basis, this equates to nearly 500 districts)
  - Additional time to address ad hoc data requests that are not replicable and typically redundant
  - The current necessity of each of the 1,200 districts and charter schools in Texas, including numerous small districts, to negotiate and structure their own SIS contracts to submit accountability data
2. Because districts must perform significant data manipulation and transformations to provide the data in the format defined in the PEIMS data collections, there is significant risk of erroneous or non-standard data in PEIMS even if district source systems are accurate (System Capability 6: Data Quality).
3. There is broad demand among districts for a statewide data management system to ease the data collection process and, in doing so, address both the dissatisfaction and undue cost for districts to maintain existing SISs as well as meet the imminent need for upgraded systems (System Capability 2: Data Standards).

