**TEXAS PARTNERSHIPS (SB 1882) BENEFITS APPLICATION**

**Texas Partnerships Benefits Application**

*For Texas Partnerships Benefits that begin in the 2024-2025 school year*

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**Application Instructions**

This document is the application for Texas Partnerships (SB 1882) benefits. For more information about Texas Partnerships, including a description of different types of partnerships, partnership benefits, eligibility requirements, and how TEA will evaluate applications, please download the Texas Partnerships Guide from the [Texas Partnerships website](https://www.txpartnerships.org).

TEA will accept applications on a rolling basis, with two priority deadlines and one final deadline. Districts and proposed operating partners must also attend mandatory webinars, and districts must have their local charter authorizing board policy and their local campus application and scoring rubric approved prior to submitting the full benefits application package. Table 1, below, shows the timeline for application package submissions.

**Table 1. Application Timeline for Texas Partnerships Benefits**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Date** |
| District and proposed operating partner attend required Texas Partnerships Overview webinar | District and partner representatives will attend one of the following sessions:   * June 12, 2023, 3p-4:30p * June 20, 2023, 9a-10:30a * September 11, 2023, 3p-4:30p * September 18, 2023, 9a-10:30a |
| District and proposed operating partner attend required Texas Partnerships Performance Contract webinar | District and partner representatives will attend one of the following sessions:   * June 13, 2023, 3p-4p * June 21, 2023, 9a-10a * September 12, 2023, 3p-4p * September 19, 2023, 9a-10a |
| District attends required Submitting a Successful Texas Partnerships Application webinar | District representative will attend one of the following sessions:   * June 14, 2023, 3p-4p * June 22, 2023, 9a-10a * September 13, 2023, 3p-4p * September 20, 2023, 9a-10a |
| District submits locally-developed charter authorizing policy, local campus partner application, and/or local application scoring rubric OR notifies TEA that the district has adopted TEA models | By December 4, 2023 or no later than 5 working days prior to local campus application release, whichever is earlier |
| District complets Letter of Intent to Apply for Texas Partnerships Benefits | By December 4, 2023 |
| Texas Partnerships Benefits Application Package Priority Deadline 1  *Districts must submit by this date for the campus/operator to be eligible to apply for a Charter School Program Start-Up Grant* | December 15, 2023  *TEA notifies district of eligibility (approval or request for additional information) no later than January 31, 2024)* |
| Texas Partnerships Benefits Application Package Priority Deadline 2  *Districts that submit by this date do not have to submit Attachment D: Pre-Opening Checklist and Implementation Plan* | January 31, 2024  *TEA notifies district of eligibility (approval or request for additional information) no later than March 15, 2024)* |
| Texas Partnerships Benefits Application Final Deadline  *Districts that submit in February or March must include Attachment D: Pre-Opening Checklist and Implementation Plan with their application* | March 29, 2024  *TEA notifies district of eligibility (approval or request for additional information) no later than May 31, 2024)* |

**A complete application includes the following documents.**

Completed Texas Partnership Application Template (this document)

Attachment A: Local Board-Approved Charter Authorizing Policy

Attachment B1: Local Campus Partner Application (for each partnership school)

Attachment B2: Local Campus Partner Application Evidence of Evaluation (for each partnership school)

Attachment C: Partnership Performance Contract (for each partnership school)

Attachment D: Pre-Opening Checklist and Implementation Plan (for each partnership school; only required if submitting after January 31, 2024)

**Districts can submit a single application for multiple partnership schools but must submit separate attachments B and C for each school.**

Please submit the completed application package to TEA using the following steps:

* Save this Partnership Application template as a PDF document titled with district name and document type (e.g., *District Name-Partnership Application*), and
* Please save required attachments as PDF documents. See application instructions for file naming convention.
* Email all files to [TXP@tea.texas.gov](mailto:TXP@tea.texas.gov) with the subject line as follows - [*Texas Partnerships Benefits Application Package District Name*].

**Specifications**

* Applicants **must** submit proposals electronically and use the template provided.
* Only responses placed within the text boxes provided will be considered for evaluation activities.
* Late submissions will not be accepted.
* Submissions from districts that did not submit a letter of intent by December 4, 2023 will not be accepted.
* Submissions from districts that did not attend all required webinars will not be accepted.
* Submissions that include an operating partner that did not attend all required webinars will not be accepted.
* Submissions that include a partner that does not have a governing board of at least 3 members and at least one full time staff at the time the application package is submitted will not be accepted.

**District Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **District Name** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Superintendent Name** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Superintendent Email and Phone Number** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Primary District Point of Contact (if different from superintendent)** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Primary District Point of Contact Email and Phone Number (if different from superintendent)** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Submission Date** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Operating Partner and Campus Information**

Please complete the following information for each operating partner organization. Copy and paste the full table below if this application includes more than one operating partner.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Partner Organization: Click or tap here to enter text.** | | | |
| **Authorizing statute for this partnership**[[1]](#footnote-2)**:** Choose an item. | | | |
| **Primary Partner Contact Information** | | | |
| **Name**:  Click or tap here to enter text. | **Role**:  Click or tap here to enter text. | **Email**:  Click or tap here to enter text. | |
| **Eligible Organization:**  *To be eligible for Texas Partnerships benefits, the district must contract with the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school (authorized by the state of Texas) or an entity that meets the criteria in* [*TEC 12.101(a).*](https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.12.htm#12.101) | | | |
| **Organization status**: Choose an item. | | | |
| **Please describe how the district verified this organization’s status**:  Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |
| **Operating Partner Board:**  *Each operating partner organization must have at least 3 board members. Add rows as needed.* | | | |
| **Board Member Name** | **Position on the board** | **Email**  *(Required for board president only)* | |
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| **Campus Information:**  *Provide the following information about the campus(es) this partner will manage. If this a new campus for which there is no CDCN, type “new” in the CDCN column. Add rows as needed if this partner will manage multiple campuses in the district.* | | | |
| **Campus Name:**  Click or tap here to enter text. | **County District Campus Number:**  Click or tap here to enter text. | **Grade levels served in Year 1:**  Click or tap here to enter text. | **Grade levels served at capacity:** Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Operating Partner Staff Member(s) Responsible for Campus Management (including principal evaluation)[[2]](#footnote-3):**  Click or tap here to enter text. | | | |

**Turnaround Partnership Information**

*Only required for districts seeking a pause in accountability sanctions under TEC 11.174(f)*

1. **If any of the operating partners above will manage a turnaround campus (a campus whose most recent accountability rating was an F), please describe the operating partner’s prior experience managing campuses. Include how many campuses the partner managed, the number of years they have managed those campuses, and the organization’s track record of managing campuses to academic success or significantly improving the academic performance of the campuses.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **How did the district define a track record of academic success and/or significant improvement in academic outcomes?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Has this organization successfully turned a campus around in the past (i.e., improved campus performance from an unacceptable rating to an A, B, or C rating)? If yes, please describe. If no, please describe how the district evaluated the partner organization’s ability to successfully execute a turnaround strategy at the district campus.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Charter Authorizing Policies and Practices**

Districts seeking approval for partnership benefits must provide evidence of high-quality district charter authorizing policies and practices. Districts must submit their local, board-approved partnership authorizing policy as attachment A to this application. Districts must also respond to the questions below.

**Required:**

* **Attachment A:** Local Charter Authorizing Policy *(as currently adopted by local district school board).* Districts are required to adopt TEA’s Model Local Charter Authorizing Policy or a similar policy approved by TEA. If the district is not using the Model Local Charter Authorizing Policy, the district’s policy must be approved before the agency (by December 4, 2023 or no later than 5 working days prior to local campus application release, whichever is earlier).
* **Respond to** questions in the Summary of Charter Authorization Policies and Practices below.

**Summary of Charter Authorizing Policies and Practices**

All districts must respond to the following questions about their local authorizing policies and practices. All questions under each section must be addressed**. Answers must explain the contents of the district board policy or the performance contract; copy and pasting sections of the board policy or contract is insufficient.**

# **Authorizing Mission and Core Vision**

1. **Describe the mission and vision of the district’s efforts to authorize new charter campuses and programs.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Explain how work to authorize new charter campuses will focus on improving student learning, increasing choice, creating professional opportunities to attract teachers, establishing new forms of accountability, and encouraging innovative learning methods.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Explain how the district’s efforts to authorize new charter campuses will support the district’s broader strategy to improve student outcomes.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

# **Commitment and Capacity**

1. **Describe the capacity and resources dedicated to the district’s charter authorizing process, including the evaluation, nomination, and ongoing monitoring of district charter campuses.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Identify the key members of the district’s leadership team by name and title and describe their individual and collective qualifications for authorizing, monitoring, and evaluating the district charter(s).**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Identify the district employee(s) that is/are fully dedicated to overseeing the authorizing and ongoing monitoring of in-district charters, including the date the employee(s) began in this role.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

# **Application and Review Process**

1. **Describe the process for evaluating and awarding proposals submitted under TEC Chapter 12, Subchapter C. Please include a description of:**

* **the questions asked in the operator application (if the district used the TEA model application, please indicate in this section),**
* **the rubric used by the district’s review panel to evaluate partner applications, including how the district evaluated the operating partner’s academic model, the operator’s strengths and weaknesses and past academic performance, and**
* **the process the district used for conducting capacity interviews.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the process undertaken to provide opportunities for the public to learn about potential charter applications prior to approval decisions by the local board.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the process for communicating application evaluation criteria and approval/denial decisions, including the basis for such decisions, to charter applicants.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

# **Oversight and Evaluation**

1. **Describe the relationship and key responsibilities between the school district board of trustees, the district administration, and the charter holder/operating partner.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the areas of autonomy and flexibility provided to charter campuses in the district. Specifically, identify district policies that will be identified in the performance contract as being applicable to the charter campus for which the campus could otherwise be exempt under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the district’s process for routinely monitoring accountability and compliance, as defined in the charter contract. Include the frequency and timeline for all monitoring activities.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Outline any district data collection requirements, including a reporting schedule, site-visits, mandated assessments, and any required student-management system.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

# **Revocation and Renewal**

1. **Describe the charter terms and evidence required for renewal of a charter agreement.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the criteria and a specific timeline for non-renewal of a charter agreement.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the process for establishment of a closure protocol to be used in the event of non-renewal of a charter agreement.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the criteria for revocation of a charter agreement.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. **Describe the procedure and a specific timeline for revocation of a charter agreement.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Local Campus Partner Application and Evidence of Evaluation**

Districts must submit this attachment for **each partnership school** under consideration for Partnership School benefits.

Districts must submit two items:

* **Attachment B1: Local Campus Partner Application:** The application that the partner organization completed and submitted to the district review panel for evaluation.
* **Attachment B2: Local Campus Partner Application Evidence of Evaluation:** The evidence that the district review panel thoroughly evaluates the proposal from the potential operator. This includes documents that demonstrate how the application was evaluated/scored, what areas needed to be addressed in the capacity interview, and notes from the capacity interview.

Attachments should be titled and ordered by partnership school/campus name. For example, a district submitting two partnerships for approval would title attachments as follows:

* Campus 1\_Attachment B1\_Local Campus Partner Application
* Campus 2\_Attachment B1\_Local Campus Partner Application
* Campus 1\_Attachment B2\_Local Campus Partner Application Evidence of Evaluation
* Campus 2\_Attachment B2\_Local Campus Partner Application Evidence of Evaluation

**Partnership Performance Contract**

Districts must submit this attachment for **each partnership school** under consideration for Partnership School benefits.

**Attachment C: Partnership Performance Contract**: the board-approved contract between school district and partner organization to operate the partnership school.

Attachments should be titled and ordered by partnership school/campus name. For example, a district submitting two partnerships for approval would title attachments as follows:

* Campus 1\_Attachment C\_Partnership Performance Contract
* Campus 2\_Attachment C\_Partnership Performance Contract

**Partnership Assurances Documentation**

The partnership assurances document serves as a commitment from the district superintendent and board of trustees that all proposed partnerships do not present a conflict of interest with the district and that the district has done its due diligence to ensure that each partner is capable of the work it has agreed to perform in the performance contract. TEA will monitor continued adherence to these assurances while the partnerships received Texas Partnership benefits.

*The Superintendent of the district shall initial each and all assurances within this document to confirm awareness and understanding of responsibilities established herein.*

1. **Governance**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that the governing body of each operating partner is not and shall not be comprised of any members of the independent school district's board of trustees, the superintendent, or staff responsible for evaluating the partnership application or overseeing the performance contract.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that the majority of the governing body of each operating partner is not comprised of district staff.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that no member of the governing body of each partner will be related within the first degree of affinity or consanguinity with any members of the independent school district's board of trustees, the superintendent, or staff responsible for granting the charter or contract to partner to operate or overseeing the performance contract.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that all members of the governing body of each operating partner have passed and will continually pass the district's conflict of interest checks.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that the district has not appointed a majority of the members of the governing board of each operating partner.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that the governing body of the operating partner will participate in board governance training provided by TEA, or a vendor recommended by TEA.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that it will submit the names and background information for all partner board members to the agency annually.

1. **Performance Contract**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that the district and each proposed operating partner meet the requirements to contract to partner to operate, as outlined in TAC §97.1075 (relating to Contracting to Partner to Operate a Campus under Texas Education Code, §11.174, as amended).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that the district is aware that to maintain benefits eligibility, the performance contract must meet the eligibility requirements described in this application and all statutory requirements for the duration of the partnership, and that all performance contract amendments must be submitted to the agency within 30 days.

1. **Authorizing Policies and Practices**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that it will continuously meet the requirements to authorize an operating partner, as outlined in TAC §97.1079 (relating to Determination Processes and Criteria for Eligible Entity Approval under Texas Education Code §11.174, as amended).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that it will not authorize performance contracts to partner to operate a campus that are contingent upon overall campus academic performance ratings, or the receipt of additional funding relate to TEC §11.174.

1. **Operating Partner Capacity**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The district assures that each operating partner has reasonable staff capacity, including at least one full-time equivalent employee in place at the time this application is submitted, necessary to oversee the operation of the campus(s).

*I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the district has authorized me to provide these assurances as noted by my initials on this and all previous pages.*

Printed Name of District Superintendent

Signature of District Superintendent

Date

Printed Name of President (Board of Trustees)

Signature of President (Board of Trustees)

Date

1. District boards may grant charters under Texas Education Code, Chapter 12, Subchapter C in the following ways:

   TEC 12.052: the board grants a charter to parents and teachers of a campus or campus program after receiving a petition from parents and teachers at the campus

   TEC 12.0521: the board grants a charter for a new campus or to an entity that has entered into contract with the district

   TEC 12.0522: the board grants a district charter to a campus (Enrollment at these campuses cannot exceed 15% of the district’s total student enrollment unless the campus is a turnaround campus, is part of a feeder pattern of district charters, or the district receives a waiver from the agency. TEA will review attendance counts at fall snapshot to see if the district has exceeded the 15% threshold.)

   TEC 12.053: the board grants a charter to parents and teacher at two or more campuses for a cooperative charter program after receiving a petition from parents and teachers at the campus [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. If campus management staff has not yet been hired, enter the anticipated hire date. Texas Partnership benefits will not be awarded until TEA has received verification that the partner organization has hired this staff member. If campus management staff is currently employed by the district, the district must provide evidence (attach to this application) that this staff is:

   under contractual obligation with the operating partner board, and

   solely dedicated to planning the launch of the campus at the time of application for benefits. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)