

Texas Home Learning (THL): Texas Plan for the Education Stabilization Fund-Rethink K-12 Education Models (ESF-REM) Grant

Abstract

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is committed to providing all Texas students with an excellent education in midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The primary goal of Texas Home Learning (THL) is to ensure all students meet and exceed grade level progress. TEA proposes three grant activities that will further the planned investment in building statewide virtual courses to ensure student access, educator efficacy, and parent satisfaction—components that are demonstrated gaps in the current state allocation of resources. Grant activities include: 1) explicitly designing support for 1,110,000 English Learners to augment coursework accessible by nearly all 5.5 million students, 2) providing implementation supports for educators and parents of English learners, 3) and providing professional development on progress-monitoring tools for teachers to ensure students access evidence-based instruction. Additionally, each of these grant activities include widely distributing information about the availability of programs. TEA will target key objectives, including increasing the number of:

- available open resources explicitly for EL students by 10 courses each year.
- parents and families of EL students learning about available resources, receiving training on using them, providing feedback on resource by 220,000 annually.
- optional PD opportunities taken by teachers accessing the THL system for 300,000 teachers

To accomplish these objectives, TEA will use grant funds to support the development of resources for K-5 English learners in the areas of ELAR, math, and English as a second language (ESL); establish regional cohorts within each of the Texas regional service center areas and establish cohort leads throughout the state to recruit, train, and support public engagement specialists; and, support the development of resources to ensure that teachers are well-trained and supported to use data to drive instruction and ensure that students receive individualized, evidence-based supports. Investing in supporting virtual learning development in Texas will help ensure that disadvantaged children, particularly children living in poverty and English Language Learners, benefit from evidence-based practices, activities, and interventions during this unprecedented time, ultimately improving student outcomes and providing increased value to students and taxpayers. This grant would allow Texas to pursue a tremendous opportunity to further the work of support and expanding virtual learning for a state profoundly impacted by COVID-19.