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#### A. NEED FOR THE PROJECT

i. The extent to which specific gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities have been identified and will be addressed by the proposed project. The Three Rivers Education Foundation, Inc. (TREF), a non-profit education leadership organization, will partner with Clint Independent School District (Clint ISD) in east El Paso, Texas, Education Service Center Region 19 (ESC 19), Northern New Mexico College (NNMC), and the Clint Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) to apply for the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSL) grant with the primary goal of supporting, developing, and implementing a robust performance-based compensation system (PBCS) as part of the Clint ISD overall human capital management system (HCMS). The proposed PBCS will include evaluation and support for teachers, principals, assistant principals, and administrators to increase educator effectiveness and student achievement through activities that will develop local human capital and capacity.

Through the proposed **TREFTSL Project**, Clint schools will increase both the rigor and reach of their HCMS by implementing *TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement*, supported by the *Texas Instructional Leadership Program*, and *21st Century Tools for Sheltered ESL Classroom*. The TAP System was developed by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), whose expertise is in educator evaluation and performance-based compensation systems. TAP is a clear and integrated strategy for strengthening the educator workforce as it addresses the most crucial element in a school – human capital. It does so by working with teachers, principals, administrators, and other school leaders to increase the skills of all involved to improve student achievement. The TAP System<sup>i</sup> consists of four critical elements needed to support teachers and administrators:

• Performance-based compensation rewards teachers and principals who demonstrate

effectiveness with differentiated levels of bonuses through multiple measures, including

student growth.

• Multiple career paths incentivize teachers to take on new leadership roles (mentor\master

teacher) and additional responsibilities with corresponding growth in pay.

• **Instructionally focused accountability** provides an evaluation structure that is rigorous,

transparent, and fair with multiple measures, including student growth.

• Ongoing applied professional growth is continuous, job-embedded taking place during

the regular school day through weekly "cluster groups." Professional development is

focused on a specific student, teacher, principal, administrator needs driven by data.

The Texas Instructional Leadership Program (TIL) was developed by the Texas Education

Agency (TEA) to strengthen the skills of administrators and leaders to build the capacity of the

educators that they manage. TIL consists of trainings intended to foster continuous improvement

by helping campus and district administrators grow concrete instructional leadership skills in the

areas of observation and feedback, school-wide culture routines, mentoring, and data-driven

instruction. Sheltered Instruction teachers are content-certified experts who have received ESL

training but are not ESL certified. Therefore, these teachers can benefit from a few straightforward

tools which they can immediately implement into their Sheltered classroom instruction.

Clint Independent School District is considered an extremely high need, rural Texas Local

Education Agency (LEA). It is the largest ISD in ESC 19, encompassing 12 school districts in El

Paso and Hudspeth counties. Of the 1,031 school districts in Texas, Clint ISD is ranked 20th

overall in terms of poverty.

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Clint ISD serves several Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZ) in El Paso County, including Census Tract 48141001900, Census Tract 48141003000, Census Tract 48141003200 Census Tract 48141003501, and Census Tract 48141003804. QOZs are a designation created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, allowing for certain investments in lower-income areas to have tax advantages. By focusing on raising outcomes in Clint ISD, **TREFTSL** supports a skilled workforce that promotes additional economic investment in the East El Paso community.

The District is comprised of 4 high schools, 4 middle schools, and 6 elementary schools and supported by 654 teachers, 14 principals, and 27 assistant principals. Clint ISD serves a majority

Hispanic population (95.4%) in the town of Clint and a portion of Horizon City, as well as the communities of Agua Dulce, Butterfield, Homestead Meadows North, Homestead Meadows South, Montana Vista, and Morning Glory. The Clint ISD Mission is *to prepare all students to be successful citizens. The District will work* 



in partnership with the community and the family to create opportunities for the student to maximize personal potential. This proposed project is an extension of that mission.

**Absolute Priority 2: High Need Schools:** Data reflected in **Table 1** indicates a significant need for improvement in English Language Arts (ELA) and science, technology, and mathematics (STEM) in the Clint ISD schools by increasing the number of master-level teachers and teachers with bilingual and TESOL certifications. All schools in Clint ISD are considered High Need:

Table 1: C	Γable 1: Clint ISD Data (%) <sup>ii</sup>					
Data	Hispanic	Economically	ELL>	ELA	Math	Science
Point		Disadvantaged^		Proficiency*	Proficiency*	Proficiency*
Clint ISD	95.5	86.3	85.0	39.3	41	40
TX	59.9	68.6	23.4	46	55	53

<sup>^</sup>Free or Reduced Lunch Rate (Economically Disadvantaged Rate) > English Language Learners \* Proficiency- STAAR Percent at Meets Grade Level or Above (Grade 8)

Poverty plays a role in educational attainment, and the targeted District has a high proportion of students living in adverse situations. As of the 2019-2020 school year, Clint ISD had 11,195 students. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) had deemed 62.4% of students at risk of dropping out of school, which uncovers many issues in the student population and their home lives. Texas state law (TEC §29.081, Compensatory and Accelerated Instruction)<sup>iii</sup> defines a student as being at risk of dropping out of school if they are under 26 years of age and includes, but is not limited to some of the following: a) Was not advanced from one grade level to the next for one or more school years; b) If the student is in grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12, did not maintain an average equivalent to 70 on a scale of 100 in two or more subjects in the foundation curriculum during a semester in the preceding or current school year; c) Is a student of limited English proficiency; or a number of other factors. Risk factors cited by the TEA included the District's 86.3% Economically Disadvantaged rate and the 39.3% Limited English Proficiency rate. *Please see additional High Need School Data in Appendix E*.

Another indication of need is the KIDS COUNT data for Texas, which examines childcentered conditions in four domains: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. The premise of KIDS COUNT is that events children experience in childhood are

carried with them for the rest of their lives. The data show that the state is not ensuring adequate opportunities for children to thrive and succeed. Texas ranks 43rd in the nation in overall child well-being<sup>iv</sup>. Texas is 35th in economic well-being and 32nd in education<sup>v</sup>. The state has recently fallen in the health area and is 41st in this domain; it remains 47th in the family and community domain<sup>vi</sup>. On the annual national Quality Counts measures, Texas finished 41st and earned an overall grade of C-<sup>vii</sup>. Texas earned a C in the Chance-for-Success category, and ranks 42nd, compared to the average national rating of C+.

*ii.* The proposed project will integrate with or build on similar or related efforts to improve relevant outcomes. In 2020-2021, the Clint ISD had a teacher turnover rate of 26.0% compared to the state rate of 16.6% viii. In many ways, the teacher shortages currently being evidenced in Texas reflect the national teacher shortage situation. According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas schools reported a need to hire 50,000 teachers in the 2021-2022 school year in an approximate 345,000 K-12 workforce. The greatest teacher specialty area needs were found in elementary bilingual education, secondary mathematics, secondary special education, elementary special education, secondary science, and secondary computer science teachers.

Because of a growing state awareness of and demand for public school performance and an ongoing effort to reform local schools at the national, state, and local levels, the continuing existence of critical teacher shortages creates major challenges for state and local school officials and the communities they serve. Moreover, it has a significant impact on all sectors of the communities, which are all directly or indirectly affected by schools' success. Currently, Clint ISD is addressing the retention of new, highly-qualified content certified teachers through limited resources. Clint ISD is currently utilizing resources and funding from the Texas Education Agency as a *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) District*- The District has implemented

PBIS in all schools. This approach focuses on prevention, early intervention, teamwork between all adults working with students, meeting student needs, and building positive school climates. In addition, staff receives training on positive youth development (PYD) to support intentional efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for youth to enhance their interests, skills, and abilities. Clint ISD has also applied to the TEA to participate in its Teacher Incentive Allotment Project (TIA) which was established by Texas House Bill 3 (HB 3) and passed by the 86th Texas Legislature in June of 2019, with a stated goal of a six-figure salary for teachers who prioritize teaching in high needs areas and rural district campuses.

iii. The extent to which the proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to improve teaching and learning and support rigorous academic standards for students. The proposed **TREFTSL Project** supports Clint's current efforts to improve academic achievement: *Nationally* Recognized Dual Language Program- Clint currently serves a 95.5% Hispanic population, with 85.0% of the student population classified as ELL. The District strives to provide a Dual Language program that allows all students to learn how to speak, write, read, listen, and think in both Spanish and English. To support this, Clint conducts nationwide searches for teachers with Bilingual Certifications in Spanish. One-to-One Laptop Program: The District has provided every student with a Chromebook to support homework completion and learning extension. District HotSpot Initiative: Through a \$900,000 investment, Clint ISD has ensured that all students have internet access at home. Books for Home: All new mothers in Clint ISD are presented with backpacks full of books from the superintendent to support early learning. Bound for Success: All District employees donate money to a district fund that provides college scholarships. Early College Academy-Participating students receive both high school and college credit, placing them further ahead towards a degree. Enrollment in the Academy is 350 students each school year.

iv. The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs. TREF has incorporated the TAP model into the proposed project due to positive results in similar districts. Barnett, Logis, & Hudgens (2018) examined the work of two university teacher preparation programs (Arizona State University and Texas Tech University) and 29 high-need school districts across Arizona and Texas. Supported by two U.S. Department of Education Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grants, these partnerships connect the pipeline of teacher preparation to the TAP Teaching Standards rubric while enhancing in-service teachers' effectiveness through curriculum-embedded professional development. The authors discovered that due to the strategies implemented in these partnerships, teacher candidates with strong academic credentials were recruited into the program, trained to have strong instructional skills, and placed in high-need schools where highly effective teachers are needed the most. Specifically, 93% of teacher candidates in these partnerships graduated, 96% of these graduates entered teaching, and 83% served in high-need schools. In addition to strengthening the preparation of teacher candidates, these partnerships have improved in-service teachers' instructional practice and student performance in partner schools through professional development and advanced coursework. TREF believes these aspects of the TAP model, i.e., utilizing mentor teachers and the Teaching Standards Rubric, can be replicated to support increased leadership and student outcomes.

In a 2019 research study conducted by the University of California Riverside, data was analyzed from the state of Louisiana for 40 schools that implemented TAP from 2005-11.<sup>x</sup> The schools had implemented core components of TAP to include: Clusters of less experienced teachers met daily with highly skilled teachers to learn new instructional strategies and receive individual coaching. Teachers were evaluated multiple times during the school year, over almost 20 different areas of

effective instructional practice. Finally, teachers were eligible for additional compensation based on their performance in the classroom and their students' performance. Teachers received separate bonuses for teaching practices and teaching outcomes.

Researchers found no improvement in math and social studies test scores the first year but steady and dramatic improvement by the third year. A survey of teachers also indicated that many had changed their teaching practices due to the program, contributing to its success. The study concluded that multiple and understandable performance metrics, combined with regular feedback to teachers, make incentive programs more effective. Rewards should be strong enough to entice teachers to adjust their teaching practices.

#### **B. QUALITY OF THE PROJECT DESIGN**

i. The extent to which the proposed project Demonstrates a Rationale The Goal of the proposed project is: By the end of the project period, the TREFTSL Project will create a sustainable model of educator effectiveness in a high-need school district to be used as a replicable model for districts across Texas and the country. Objective One: TREF will implement the TREFTSL Project with TAP components to align with the current Clint ISD compensation system to further support educator excellence and student achievement. Objective Two: TREF will contribute to the knowledge base on educator effectiveness systems that supports educator excellence and student learning in high-need and bilingual schools.

The proposed project meets **Absolute Priority 1: Performance-Based Compensation Systems**. Research shows that experienced, well-credentialed teachers positively impact achievement for all students, in particular minority students, and that inexperienced, undercredentialed teachers have the opposite effect. In part, this reflects the growing expectations of what young people need to learn and be able to do in the 21st century. Young people need to think

critically, collaborate effectively, communicate clearly, solve complex problems, and continue to

learn independently throughout their lives. Teachers need to support these skills with a curriculum

aligned to more challenging standards.

ii. The proposed project includes a review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for

project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful

achievement of project objectives. The implementation of TREFTSL utilizing the TAP System

framework meets Competitive Preference Priority 1—Supporting Educators and Their

**Professional Growth.** The plan is detailed in the project Logic Model in *Appendix A*. Research

supporting TAP includes studies that show effective leadership is characterized by collective

responsibility (Hattie, 2018) and finds that student achievement and teacher learning increases

when professional development is teacher-led, ongoing, and collaborative (Darling-Hammond,

2017). There is evidence that districts need to first determine the skills and knowledge for

successful teachers and then create standards and rubrics in teacher performance systems (Jackson,

2015). Studies have found that school-based performance award programs are successful when

coupled with strong leadership, professional development, reliable analysis of student

performance, and targeted feedback (Odden, 2000).

**TREFTSL** is comprised of the following core components: 1) Part of a comprehensive effort

to improve teaching and support rigorous academic standards for students; 2) Involves the

collaboration of strong partners to maximize the effectiveness of the project services; 3) Supported

by an evidenced- model; and, 4) Builds upon similar efforts to improve relevant outcomes, using

existing funding streams from other programs by State and Federal resources. Figure 1

demonstrates the TREFTSL Flow Chart summarizing the work and aligned with system

components to achieve the academic vision of Clint ISD.

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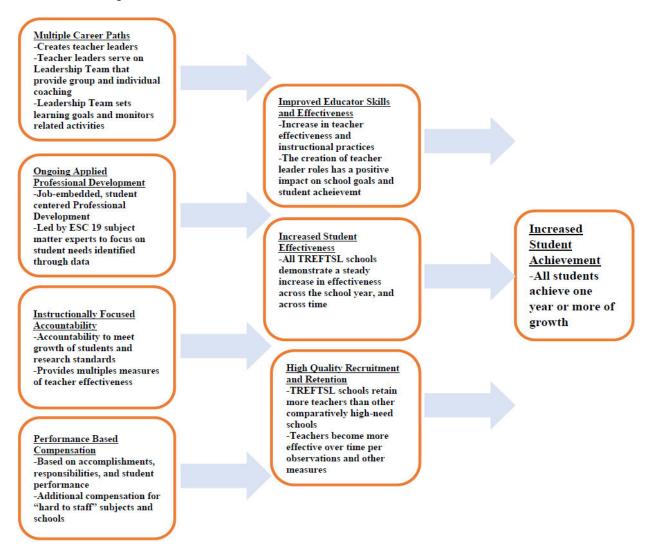


Figure 1. TREFTSL Flow Chart

Clint ISD currently uses the educator evaluation system developed by the TEA, the Texas Teacher Education and Support System (**T-TESS**), *please see Appendix D*. The T-TESS is divided into four components: 1) Planning, 2) Teacher Instruction, 3) Classroom Environment and 4) Professional Practices and Responsibilities. The T-TESS Rubric and additional information, *located in Appendix D*, includes 4 Domains and 16 Dimensions.

T-TESS domain and dimension rubrics include specific descriptors of practices and 5 performance levels; Distinguished, Accomplished, Proficient, Developing, and Improvement

Needed. TREFTSL will build on the current T-TESS system, adding the TAP framework and

resources to make the system more robust and support the current Clint ISD vision that all teachers

be effective enough to support each student to achieve at least one year's growth every school

year. To accomplish this, Clint ISD must ensure the following:

• Teachers can differentiate instruction to meet individual students' needs;

• Instructional decisions are based on data.

• Professional development is focused on teacher needs to improve student learning, and

• Students receive an educational experience that prepares them for higher education and

the future workforce.

The current principal and assistant principal evaluation is the TEA's Texas Principal

Evaluation and Support System (T-PESS), which holds building leaders accountable for multiple

measures of leadership capabilities. Additional information regarding the T-PESS is located in

Appendix D.

The proposed **TREFTSL** will also incorporate building administrators to support leadership

and to be evaluated as part of the TAP System and the school-wide student achievement gains

made in their buildings. Clint ISD will continue to develop its educator-supportive culture and to

use educator effectiveness to inform decision-making in all stages of the educator employment

pipeline. The proposed evaluation system ensures that teachers are observed in classroom

instruction multiple times a year by trained observers, including principals and master and mentor

teachers who will provide constructive feedback. Evaluators will use a detailed instructional rubric

that includes several dimensions of instructional effectiveness.

Texas Instructional Leadership Program trainings will be offered to administrators during

TREFTSL and sustained after. Offerings include Observation & Feedback, Data-Driven

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Instruction, Schoolwide Culture Routine, Lesson Alignment, and Formative Assessment trainings

for campuses and districts looking to increase student achievement overall, and close gaps between student subgroups. TIL trainings align with many of the best practices described in the Effective Schools Framework. Developed by the Texas Education Agency, the framework is a set of district commitments and, for schools, essential actions. In



addition, during this administrator training, each will be tasked with one-on-one mentoring of another administrator for the next school year, strengthing the administrators in the District and their capacity to support our educators and supporting their ability to act as mentors.

Continuing efforts are needed to improve recruitment and retention practices and build capacity within the District. Implementing TAP components will provide career advancement, professional development, and salary augmentation for effective teachers, thus increasing local human capital. Through this grant, Clint ISD will partner with universities in Texas and Region 19 to annually recruit up to 15 highly-skilled teacher candidates in high-need subject areas each year with demonstrated teacher effectiveness characteristics that have been identified using the TAP rubrics. Clint ISD determined 15 new teachers each year, resulting in 45 new teachers throughout the project. This number of new staff will be manageable to receive the amount of coaching and mentoring the District and each building intends to provide. At this point, the teachers will receive a bonus and sign a 3-year contract to remain in the District. These selectively recruited teachers will also receive a bonus at the end of each year of their contract if rated exemplary under the TREFTSL Project

Additional significant incentives will be provided through **TREFTSL** for 10 highly effective

teachers within the District who have demonstrated effectiveness based on data from short-cycle assessments. These highly effective educators will obtain their principal certification with full tuition and fee reimbursement. Once their certifications are achieved, they will be given priority hiring status as positions open within Clint ISD.

Table 2: TREFTSL Compensation Levels (Please also see the Budget Narrative)			
District Role	Compensation Description	Amount	
Master Teachers	Additional roles and responsibilities as		
	described in the TAP System		
Mentor Teachers	Additional roles and responsibilities as		
	described in the TAP System.		
Teachers	Performance compensation pool		
Principals	Performance compensation pool		
Assistant Principals	Performance compensation pool		
Teacher Retention	Effective teachers bonus for signing		
	contract		
High Effective New	Selective recruitment process to attract new,		
Teachers	highly effective teachers		
Prospective Principals	Selection of effective administrators to	Tuition	
	pursue administrative credentials	and Fees	

Competitive Preference Priority 2: Increasing Educator Diversity Funding will also be available on a first-come-first-serve basis for teachers to take courses through Northern New Mexico College for coursework needed to support the teaching in a high needs district, Letter of

Support in Appendix C. These courses will focus on English as a Second Language (ESL) Certification, which is of great importance in a district serving a 95.5% Hispanic population, with 85% classified as ELL. These courses will also support the completion of additional areas of need such as STEM, Special Education, and to qualify to teach Dual Credit classes, Technology, etc. Funds will be available to support 1,845 3-credit courses for Clint ISD educators by the end of year 3.

Northern New Mexico College will also provide 21st Century Tools for Sheltered ESL Classrooms. This research-based staff development will be provided to both English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and content-area mainstream teachers to promote the use of sheltered techniques in grade-level classes. Features of sheltered instruction include:

- use of cooperative learning activities with appropriately designed heterogeneous grouping of students;
- a focus on academic language as well as key content vocabulary;
- o judicious use of ELLs' first language as a tool to provide comprehensibility;
- use of hands-on activities using authentic materials, demonstrations, and modeling;
   and
- o explicit teaching and implementation of learning strategies

Table 3: TREFTSL Project Modifications to Current System				
System	Current	TREFTSL Modification to	Measure of System	
Component	Status	System	Change	
Recruitment	Candidates are	TREFTSL will include	Number of applicants/	
	recruited through	significant resources to recruit hard-to-staff candidates in	positions by position type. Performance of	

	traditional	Special Education (SPED),	new teachers will be
	means through	STEM, and ESL. Bonuses tied	tracked using
	postings and	to teacher effectiveness and	evaluation data to
	relationships	retention will be used to improve	guide future recruiting.
	with	recruitment strategies. Clint ISD	
	Universities	will continue efforts to hire	
	and ESC 19.	teachers with records of	
		effectiveness as student teachers.	
		Placement will continue based	
		on need.	
Placement	High-need	Multiple career paths incentivize	Evaluation/observation
	subjects such	teachers to assume new	data based on job
	as SPED,	leadership roles (mentor and	expectations and
	Bilingual,	master teacher). Additional	responsibilities for
	STEM remain	responsibilities correspond with	different types of
	difficult to fill.	an increase in pay. Placement	teachers
		will continue based on need.	
Teacher	PD is job-	PD will take place weekly in	PD will be determined
PD/ Support	embedded/	cluster groups led by master and	and guided by teacher
	focused on the	mentor teachers during school	evaluation results.
	needs of	hours. The most effective	
	teachers and	teachers will be determined	
	students.	using evaluation data to pursue	

		principal certification to become	
		school leaders in Clint ISD. ESC	
		19 will provide experts to	
		support the targeted professional	
		development needs of master/	
		mentor teachers.	
Principal PD/	Principal PD	PD in areas of collaboration,	PD will be guided by
Support	held monthly	feedback, and coaching based on	the TEA District
	during	data-driven needs will be	report and Clint ISD
	Administrative	provided by ESC 19 on-site and	internal monitoring
	meetings.	regional trainings.	reports.
Teacher	Teachers are	Teachers will have the added	Individual ratings,
Evaluation	evaluated	component of Career Paths; the	classroom score,
	using the	more detailed student growth	overall effectiveness
	current T-	opportunities which allow	rating
	TESS rubric	measurements on annual state	
		tests, criterion-referenced tests	
		(CRTs), and short-cycle testing;	
		additional professional	
		development; master/mentor	
		teachers on-site; and meaningful	
		bonuses and incentives.	
Principal	Principals are	Principals may earn additional	School-wide score,

Evaluation	evaluated	incentives based on their overall	Leadership Team
	using the	effectiveness scores.	observation, and TEA
	current T-		rubric will be
	PESS rubric.		combined to create a
			measure of
			effectiveness.
Teacher	Currently, no	Teachers can earn	Individual ratings,
Bonuses,	augmented pay	augmentations by taking on	classroom score,
Performance	is available.	additional roles as master or	overall effectiveness
Performance	is available.	mentor teachers and incentives	rating.
Pay, or other		based on their effectiveness.	
Incentives			
Principal	Currently, no	Principals may earn additional	School-wide score,
Bonuses,	augmented pay	incentives based on their overall	Leadership Team
Performance	is available.	effectiveness scores.	observation, and TEA
Pay, or other			rubric will be
Incentives			combined to create a
			measure of
			effectiveness.
Career	Limited	Teachers with a record of	Individual ratings,
Advancement	opportunities	effectiveness may take on the	classroom score,
	for	role of master or mentor teacher;	effectiveness rating.
	advancement	some teachers will be supported	
		to pursue administrator	

	credentials.	

The TREFTSL Project leverages a state-developed high-quality compensation system and adds components of a proven model with positive impacts on students and educators nationally. The new system includes levels of compensation based in part on measurable increases in student academic achievement, as well as differentiated levels of compensation based on roles and responsibilities. The system also provides bonus pay for effective teachers in hard-to-staff schools and high-need subject areas. Finally, the model recognizes the knowledge of educators demonstrated through teacher leadership roles and mastery of content knowledge, excellence in teaching, and leadership skills.

#### **Teacher Evaluation**

Observations Teacher effectiveness will be evaluated annually based on student achievement growth at the classroom and school-wide level, the average of scores from at least four classroom observations each school year, and the results of a teacher responsibilities survey. Teachers are evaluated by members of the **TREFTSL** Leadership Team (principal, master and mentor teachers) at least four times a year in both announced and unannounced classroom observations using the rubric from the *TAP Skills, Knowledge and Responsibilities Performance Standards* (*Standards*). The Standards include "Instruction," "Designing and Planning Instruction," and "The Learning Environment," as defined in 19 indicators scored on a 5-point rubric that ranges from Unsatisfactory (1) to Proficient (3) to Exemplary (5). Teachers are trained on the rubric before evaluations to understand expectations.

Responsibilities survey. Leadership performance standards are established for master, mentor, and career teachers, providing an additional measure of educator effectiveness. These performance standards are measured using a survey that takes into account the different

responsibilities and leadership roles of the educators in each position. The survey is scored on a 5-point rubric that ranges from Unsatisfactory (1) to Proficient (3) to Exemplary (5). The average score on the responsibilities survey is combined with the average scores on the observation-based rubric (Skills and Knowledge) to form a final score.

Student growth measures. Effectiveness and compensation are significantly based on student growth measures of school and individual classrooms. The calculation will be based 25% on the school's performance and the other 75% from a calculation derived from the availability of data from annual state tests, criterion-referenced tests (CRTs), and short-cycle testing. This will vary for each teacher depending on grade and subject taught, and alternative measures will be determined as needed.

Table 4: TREFTSL Teacher Scoring		
Weighted Average Score	Overall Evaluation Rating	
1.0 – 1.99	Unsatisfactory	
2.0 – 2.99	Developing	
3.0 – 3.99	Proficient	
4.0 - 5.00	Exemplary	

"Unsatisfactory" teachers do not qualify for performance pay. These teachers do not meet performance minimums (average score below a 2.0). Both "Developing" and "Proficient" bands contain effective teachers. "Exemplary" teachers are highly effective.

#### Principal/Assistant Principal Evaluation

Principal effectiveness will be evaluated annually based on student achievement growth at the school level, the T-PESS evaluation rubric, and **TREFTSL** observation scores. Principals will be observed two or more times a year by the superintendent or his rubric. A significant portion of principal effectiveness will depend on student growth measured by school-wide scores. Half

of the principal evaluation rating is comprised of school-wide scores, 30% on the T-PESS rubric assessment, and 20% will depend on the average score from observations.

The External Evaluators will develop a process evaluation report monthly that will be submitted to the **TREFTSL** Advisory Committee. The report will detail the progress of activities in a format that can be easily compared to the work plan and grant components. Outcome data will be also be assessed and discussed at monthly project staff meetings to determine the progress and quality of services.

Table 5: Goals, Objectives, Outcomes (Logic Model in Appendix A)		
Goal 1: By the end of the pro	oject period, the TREFTSL Project will create a sustainable model	
of educator effectiveness in a high-need school district to be used as a replicable model for districts across Texas and the country.		
Objective Outcome		

Objective 1.1: TREF will	Outcome 1.1.1: Leadership Teams comprised of Mentor Teachers
implement the TREFTSL	and Master Teachers will be established at every Clint ISD school.
Project with TAP	Outcome 1.1.2: Teachers will be offered Professional
components to align with	Development opportunities in cluster meetings during the school
the current Clint ISD	day on a weekly basis.
compensation system in	Outcome 1.1.3: In order to support teaching in high needs
order to further support	schools, courses will be offered online through Northern New
educator excellence and	Mexico College.
student achievement.	Outcome 1.1.4: Ten teachers will receive their principal
	credentials.
	Outcome 1.1.5: Teachers rated highly effective will receive
	compensation tied to performance measures not currently
	available.
	Outcome 1.1.6: Principals rated highly effective will receive
	compensation tied to performance measures not currently
	available.
Objective 1.2: TREF will	Outcome 1.2.1: TREF will conduct a thorough evaluation of
contribute to the	TREFTSL to be included in the Final Report, disseminated to key
knowledge base on	stakeholders, and presented at state and national conferences.
educator effectiveness	Outcomes 1.2.2: The information from the TREFTSL will
systems that supports	carefully be recorded and developed into a replicable model for
educator excellence and	other school districts to utilize for implementation of performance-

student learning in high-	based compensation systems and improvement of student
need and bilingual schools.	outcomes.

Additionally, TREFTSL will use teacher focus groups, peer groups, and surveys of all participants to solicit input. Utilizing cycles for continual improvement and PDSA (plan-do-study-act) concepts such as those in quality management philosophies and Baldrige quality tools, project staff, and Advisory Committee will continuously identify strengths and weaknesses in delivering services and work with all parties to make reasonable modifications for enhanced services. Finally, the External Evaluators will describe and summarize all evaluation strategies in Quarterly and Final Reports to support replication.

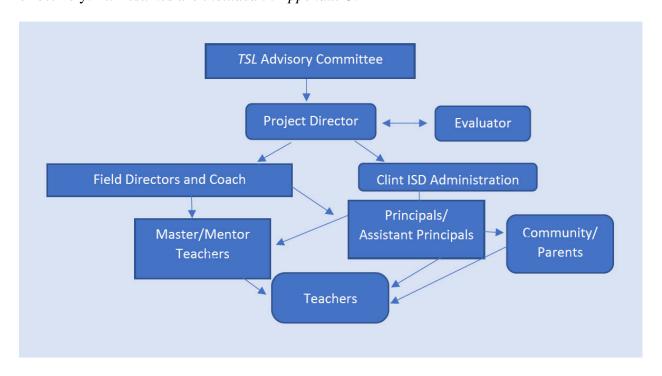
Table 6: Project Monitoring		
Project Component	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement
	Frequency	
Grant Budget	Quarterly	TREF Finance Team review with Project
		Director
Progress of the Project	Quarterly	Advisory Committee review and adjustment
according to Timeline and		as needed
Goals, Objectives, and		
Outcomes		
Success and Impact of new	Bi-Annually	Building teacher surveys, Principal/
Master and Mentor Teachers		Assistant Principal feedback
roles		
Success and Impact of newly	Bi-Annually	Building teacher surveys and student

offered Professional		outcome growth
Development		
Teacher evaluation data	Quarterly	Advisory Committee review of teacher
		evaluation trends compared to short-cycle
		student growth
Principal evaluation data	Quarterly	Advisory Committee review of principal
		evaluation trends compared to short-cycle
		student growth
New teacher recruitment data	Annually	Review of feedback from teachers during the
		hiring process by the Advisory Committee,
		project staff, and Clint ISD
Teacher retention data	Quarterly	Review of feedback from teachers choosing
		to leave the District by the Advisory
		Committee, project staff, and Clint ISD
Student Achievement	Quarterly	Quarterly Reviews of student data annually
		by the Advisory Committee to determine
		trends related to school leaders, professional
		development, and other project components

#### C. QUALITY OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

*i. The quality of the management plan for the proposed project.* The Three Rivers Education Foundation will serve as the fiscal agent for the proposed TSL grant. The roles and responsibilities of TREF personnel are noted in **Table 7**, the Timeline. The following management plan describes

the structure for implementing this project. TREF and the Clint ISD will maintain the proposed PBCS for the three years of the TSL project period while working towards sustainability from year one of the project. TREF has assembled a well-qualified team who will complete their project responsibilities on time and within budget. The qualifications of the staff described below represent the full range of skills to guarantee quality and timely work on all project tasks. The time commitments these key personnel will devote to this grant are adequate to implement the project effectively. *All Resumes are included in Appendix C*.



has extensive experience in implementing projects of the scope and complexity of the **TREFTSL** initiative. has more than 35 years' experience in education at all levels, including as a teacher, school superintendent, federal programs officer, director of a regional education cooperative, and off-campus director for a four-year university. She is the Three Rivers Education Foundation founder and has worked with diverse, rural, low-socioeconomic, multi-ethnic schools and communities typical of the southwest.

Technologies (STEM focus) and the application in classrooms K-12 through higher education and with a minor in Administration. She has worked diligently to address educational and career inequities in rural communities throughout her career. For the past 5-years, she has directed two extensive successful multi-state federal literacy initiatives focused on student, teacher, parent, and community development. She is also the past President of the International Mentoring Association, focusing on research and development of mentoring and coaching in education, business, industry, communities, and government.

Project Role- will be responsible for meeting project goals and objectives, providing oversight, working with the Evaluator, ensuring all compensation payments are legitimate, and have adequate support documentation. will also support and provide oversight and accountability in regards to Fields Directors' work to ensure quality control.

Arizona State University and has worked in education for more than 45 years. She grew up in both Ciudad Juarez and El Paso, Texas, and has experience as a teacher, administrator, and college instructor. has taught in K-12 classrooms and is certified in Administration and all content areas, except for science in secondary education. In addition, she has served as an assistant superintendent and has experience with staff supervision, program development/implementation, budget management, and reporting. served as adjunct faculty at colleges and universities teaching undergraduate education and administration education courses for ten years. She is bilingual (English/Spanish) and served as the President of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education, and developed licensure programs for bilingual teachers for the New Mexico Public Education Department.

Project Role- will oversee and manage the project at the elementary level and all ESL
credentialing and training. This position works collaboratively with the Secondary Field Director
to ensure all project goals and objectives are met. will also assist in identifying
participants for the Principals' Certification Academy through ESC 19, assist in placement,
coaching, and support of newly certified principals, and facilitate evaluation data collection and
analysis.
, Field Director & Coach (1.0FTE) has spent almost 50 years in
education. He began his career in the Gadsden Independent School District as a teacher, principal,
associate superintendent, and deputy superintendent for over 17 years.
years in the Silver Consolidated School District, including eight years as superintendent. He also
worked for seven years as an administrator for the Las Cruces Catholic School. In addition, Torres
served as a college instructor and master's program admissions adviser in the College of
Education's Educational Management and Development Department at New Mexico State
University until he became associate superintendent of operations for the Las Cruces Public
Schools.
Project Role- will serve as Field Coordinator & Coach, providing oversight and
management of the project at the middle and high school level. Bilingual in English and Spanish,
will work collaboratively with the Elementary Field Director to ensure all project goals
and objectives are met. He will also assist in identifying participants for the Principals
Certification Academy through ESC 19, and in the placement, coaching, and support of newly
certified principals.
, Superintendent- has been a Texas educator for 24
years, serving as a Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Human Resources, Chief

Human Resource Officer, and Superintendent. He is in his fifth year as the superintendent of the has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Clint Independent School District. Computer Information System and Master of Education degrees from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1993 and 1996. obtained his superintendent certification from Angelo State University in 2006. He received his Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2017. Project Role- will support all project components by serving on the Advisory Committee and linking project staff to district resources as necessary to support all goals, objectives, and outcomes. Assistant Superintendent- Secondary Curriculum & Instruction has worked in education for over 27 years as a classroom teacher, instructional coordinator, and assistant superintendent. His career started as an elementary school teacher in Ysleta Independent School District in El Paso, Texas, where he was named 2002 District Teacher of the Year. has served in Clint ISD since , in roles such as Instructional Technology Coordinator, Advanced Academics Coordinator, Executive Director of Technology, and his current role as Assistant Superintendent- Secondary Curriculum & Instruction. received his Bachelor in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master of Curriculum and Instruction degree from the University of Texas in El Paso. Project Role- will provide support for the development of professional development for secondary schools in Clint ISD, as well as the recruitment of new teachers and the implementation of the project in all secondary schools. We will oversee the implementation of the TSL Program and mentoring component across the District.

# has spent 31 years in education, beginning her career as a classroom elementary school teacher. After spending 12 years in primarily Title 1 classrooms, became an Assistant Principal and then a Principal in El Paso-area schools. At this point, she received the National Distinguished Principal Award. currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent- Elementary Curriculum & Instruction for the Clint Independent School District. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degree from the University of Texas in El Paso. Project Role- will provide support for the development of professional development for elementary schools in Clint ISD, as well as the recruitment of new teachers and the implementation of the project in all elementary schools. will co-manage the implementation of the TSL Program and mentoring component across the District.

#### ii. The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the project

The **TREFTSL** oversight, management, and coordination of this project will ultimately be the responsibility of the TSL Project Director, who will administer the grant. This plan will include three subsets of activities to ensure the goals and objectives are achieved on time and within budget: oversight of grant execution, management of grant activities, and collaboration with all partners to execute the project. TREF will employ routine cost-control mechanisms that involve budget planning and systematic review. In addition, TREF performs systematic reviews of actual performance against plans to make adjustments as required.

TREF has a history of successfully managing large federal grants throughout the Southwest United States in service of high-need districts to meet their pressing needs for qualified personnel, community development, and leadership initiatives. One mission of the TREF is to promote means and opportunities for the organization to support education and community projects to further

educator and student development.

Upon notification of funding, TREF will convene a **TREFTLS** Advisory Committee that may include: The Project Director; each school's principal, the Clint superintendent or his designee, a teacher representative from each school; a representative from ESC 19; and a representative from NNMC. The Advisory Committee will meet regularly to provide a consistent means for review of the status and improvement of the project. The Advisory Committee will also convene to make decisions regarding PBCS implementation, such as alternative student growth measure teachers in non-tested subjects or grade levels.

A third-party professional evaluator will evaluate this project with the capacity for working with both qualitative and quantitative data. The purpose of the evaluation is 1) provide feedback for continuous improvement in the implementation and operation of the project and 2) provide an analysis of the evidence that the project is achieving its objectives and goals. In addition, the Evaluator will study project implementation during the length of the grant, including differences in fidelity between schools. Finally, the Evaluator will provide an annual report to TREF, analyzing key data regarding project implementation and progress toward objectives and outcomes.

Table 7: Project Timeline         Key Staff: Project Director (PD); Field Directors (FDs);					
Assistant Superintendent- Secondary Curriculum & Instruction (ASSCI). Assistant					
Superintendent- Elementary Curriculum & Instruction (ASECI); TREFTSL Leadership Team					
(TLT); TREFTSL Advisory Committee (Advisory Comte)					
<b>Project Milestones</b>	Person(s)	Timeline			
	Responsible	Y1	Y2	Y3	
Sign MOUs with Project Partners	PD	X			

Establish TREFTSL Advisory Cmte to	FDs	X		
meet quarterly to assess project progress				
External Evaluators develops Data	External Evaluator	X		
Collection and Evaluation Plan				
District and Project Leadership develops	PD, superintendent,	X		
Sustainability Plan	ASSCI, ASECI			
Career Advancement				
Establish a Committee for master and	FDs	X	X	X
mentor teacher selection				
Schools conduct a staff meeting to review	FDs, ASSCI, ASECI	X		
TREFTLS, including the Multiple Career				
Path opportunities, mentor and master				
teacher roles, responsibilities and				
qualifications, along with the interview				
and selection process				
Master and mentor teaching positions are	FDs	X		
posted by Human Resources				
Mentor and master teacher applications	TLT	X		
are reviewed by the TREFTLS				
Leadership Team (TLT) to interview				
Master and mentor teachers will sign	TLT, FDs	X		
addendums to their contract, outlining the				
responsibilities, job descriptions, and				

compensation.				
<b>Professional Development</b>				
The school schedule will be restructured to	Advisory Comte	X		
allow for ongoing applied professional				
development to take place during the				
school day.				
TLT of each school will meet with the	TLT, FDs	X		
Field Directors to review cluster group				
assignments and schedule roles and				
responsibilities; TLT meeting				
expectations; and preparations for the				
School Kick-Off Workshop				
Provide professional development for	TLT	X	X	X
teachers				
PBCS Evaluation		1		
TREFTLS Advisory Comte will review	Advisory Comte	X	X	X
student growth measures annually				
TREFTLS Advisory Comte will	Advisory Comte	X		
determine				
alternative student growth measures and				
develop rubric as needed				
PBCS Implementation for Teachers				
TREF will ensure that evaluators are	FDs	X	X	X
	L	<u>'</u>	1	

trained and certified, and recertified				
annually to ensure ratings.				
All teachers will have received a minimum	TLT, FDs	X	X	X
of four classroom evaluations and				
associated pre- and post-conference				
sessions.				
TREFTSL will reward effective teachers	PD	X	X	X
with performance-based compensation.				
TREFTSL will award recruitment	FDs	X	X	X
bonuses to teachers in high-need subjects.				
PBCS Implementation for Principals and	Assistant Principals			
ESC 19 will provide professional	FDs, ESC 19	X	X	X
development for principals				
All principals will have received a	PD, Superintendent or	X	X	X
minimum of two observation evaluations	designee			
using the T-PESS rubric				
TREFTSL will reward effective	PD	X	X	X
principals in participating schools with				
performance-based compensation				
Additional Coursework				
The project will fund 3-credit online	PD	X	X	X
courses through Northern New Mexico				
College needed for teachers to complete				

requirements for ESL, SPED, STEM, or		
Dual Credit teaching requirement		

#### D. ADEQUACY OF THE RESOURCES

i. The likelihood that the proposed project will result in system change or improvement. To support systemic change, Clint ISD is implementing the TREFTSL Project district-wide to include all schools. There are several meaningful, permanent changes being made to accommodate PBCS and its components to improve student outcomes: 1) Development and training of master and mentor teachers in every school, 2) Formation of Leadership Teams in every school to support all teachers: 3) Changing of the school day to accommodate the weekly cluster team professional development opportunities, 4) Observation of teachers four times each year, 5) Observation of principals at least twice each year, and 6) Implementation of new evaluation scale for teachers and principals.

One could argue that some of these systemic changes can easily be reversed. However, once these practices are adopted, written into contracts, and become part of a school and district culture, they are challenging to eliminate, particularly if tied to positive student outcomes. This is why Clint ISD has decided to implement **TREFTSL** as a district-wide solution in order to build human capital and address academic improvement for all children, and any improvements made would become permanent structures.

Additionally, the lessons learned from the proposed project will be used to inform further teacher compensation programs in similar school districts. The use of the TEA model has been somewhat successful in Clint ISD with its tiered approach, linked to professional development, and tied to accountability through student outcomes. The more robust, expanded system addresses the need for additional responsibility and recognition for exemplary work supported through

defined career paths. The opportunity for additional, meaningful professional development delivered by peers to support data-driven needs coincides with the more meaningful opportunity to define oneself as an exemplary teacher through a proven rubric and growth of student outcomes. Not only does the project bring the opportunity to augment individual salaries, but it also addresses recruitment and retention issues with increased resources. **TREFTSL** will bring meaningful change to Clint ISD as a PBCS with proven TAP components, consequently improving human and intellectual capital.

ii. The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population. To impact student outcomes, the single most crucial factor is the quality of the teacher. Increasing teaching effectiveness, particularly in high-need schools, requires both individual and group support from school leaders and peers. The TREFTSL Project supports this need by developing a long-term infrastructure through the proven strategy of master and mentor teachers delivering high-quality data-driven training weekly. This not only builds instructional knowledge on the school and district-level but also increases school leaders. Local capacity is also developed in the increased ability to conduct classroom evaluations and implement school climate improvement strategies. These capacitybuilding activities must be formalized into the District and incorporated into a single system that evaluates, instructs, rewards, promotes, and retains. This is the goal of the TREFTSL Project. iii. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has the resources to operate the project beyond the length of the grant. Clint ISD plans to continue this project after the three years of grant funding. A long-term sustainability plan for the proposed project has already been developed. Many of the expenses are one-time, such as the development and delivery of training, the implementation of the model across the District, and the completion of coursework for teachers

needed to teach Dual Credit, ESL, Special Education, STEM, Bilingual, or other difficult to fill

classes.

Other expenses will no longer be needed, such as the project staff and external evaluators who

will develop and implement the TREFTSL Project. At the end of the three-year grant period,

internal staff will sustain and evaluate the project. The funding association with PBCS will be

partially recouped from the reduced teacher and school leader turnover, which is expensive for the

District to address annually. These resources can be shifted to the teacher, principal, and assistant

principal compensation tied to performance. The TIL Program and mentoring program will be

institutionalized. The remainder of the funding needed to sustain the project will be determined in

a sustainability plan, finalized and implemented in year 1 of the project.

The TREFTSL Project partnerships are evidenced by Letters of Support in Appendix C.

The <u>Clint Independent School District</u> will implement the project throughout the District, devoting

administrative time, building space, and other resources across the project period to support all

goals, objectives, and outcomes.

The Education Service Center 19 fully supports the implementation of **TREFTSL** in Clint ISD

with the potential adoption by other ISDs. In addition, ESC 19 will provide professional

development to support the mentor teachers, master teachers, and school leaders, providing weekly

staff training opportunities as well as increasing local human capital.

Clint Association of Texas Professional Educators represents teachers and administrators across

Clint ISD. ATPE was instrumental in the design of the **TREFTSL Project**. The organization

approved submission for federal funding on behalf of its members in order to support

improvements in student outcomes in all schools through a performance-based compensation

system.

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<u>Northern New Mexico College</u> will provide support and access to Clint ISD teachers who need to complete individual courses to teach classes such as STEM, ESL, Dual Credit, Technology, and others. In addition, NNMC staff will advise and enroll Clint ISD teachers in online courses and ensure all needs are met.

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