

**Consider approval for proposal of services for awarded LASO 4 Grant
March 23, 2026**

1.Board Goals:

Domain 1: High Quality Curriculum and Effective Instruction

Domain 2: Well Supported Staff

2.Background:

Uvalde CISD has been awarded funding through the Texas Education Agency Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Cycle 4 grant, specifically the Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas (LIFT) Implementation Phase and School Improvement PLC support. These grants are designed to support districts in strengthening instructional systems, building leadership capacity, and ensuring high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) are implemented with fidelity. To support the implementation of this work, the district is proposing to partner with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to provide structured training, coaching, and implementation support aligned to the goals of the LASO LIFT initiative.

Grant Focus Areas

- K–5 RLA / SLAR
- K–5 Math
- Secondary Math (Grades 6–9)

Grant Timeline: March 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027 (Year 1)

3.Process:

Administration recommends partnering with NIET (National Institute for Excellence in Teaching) as the Approved Provider to support:

- Instructional leadership coaching
- Professional Learning Community (PLC) implementation to strengthen Tier 1 instruction and curriculum implementation
- Curriculum implementation support
- Continuous improvement and data cycles

These supports are designed to strengthen instructional systems and improve student outcomes through sustained coaching, leadership development, and collaborative professional learning.

4.Fiscal Impact:

Total Grant Year 1 Award: \$838,000

Funding Sources:

- **\$222,867** – K–5 RLA/SLAR or Math
- **\$495,133** – Any content area
- **\$120,000** - **Secondary Math**

Per grant guidelines:

- **70%** for Approved Provider services
- **30%** for allowable district expenses

No local budget impact.

5.Recommendation:

Administration recommends approval of the LIFT grant participation and NIET partnership to support instructional systems and curriculum implementation.

6.Action Required:

Board Action Required

7.Contact Person:

Amy Graeber, CIO

[LINK](#) to the Program Guidelines and award

Feedback from Campus Instructional Leadership Teams

- **Instructional Focus and Achievement:** The partnership helped center work on high-quality Tier 1 instruction as the primary lever for student achievement, leading to sharpened focus and instructional precision.
- **Leadership Development and Support:** Benefits include executive coaching, principal development, and PLC modeling, which helps leaders prioritize instruction and avoid initiative overload.
- **Data-Driven Practices:** The work provided coaching to restructure PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) and ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) meetings, ensuring they are based on data and focused on results.
- **Content Knowledge and Clarification:** Respondents benefited from a knowledgeable presenter who was willing to clarify questions and concerns and offered successful ideas for teachers.
- **Initial Program Understanding:** NIET supported the initial understanding of the RLA RBIS (Reading Language Arts, Reading Better in Schools).
- **Improved Implementation and Capacity:** Partnering with NIET strengthened HQIM implementation fidelity by building leadership capacity, clarifying instructional non-negotiables, and aligning district systems around strong Tier 1 instruction, leading to more coherent and consistent implementation.
- **Calibration and Monitoring:** The partnership helped calibrate leaders on high-quality implementation through executive coaching, PLC modeling, and FOI walks, enabling the establishment of clear monitoring systems and reducing variability across campuses.
- **Support for Instruction and Collaboration:** Support was provided for secondary level PLCs, ILTs, and coaching, and collaboration helped calibrate walkthroughs.
- **Curriculum Understanding:** The partnership helped one instructional leader understand the material and purpose for helping students.
- **Teacher Feedback:** According to teacher feedback, there is a desire for NIET to work through lessons with them in grade-level bands, similar to the support provided by Region 20 for Math.