

We're excited for you to apply. Depending on how much you've already thought about your potential project, we anticipate the application will take you 1-3 hours to complete, including collecting a letter of support. Please submit your application via this form. **We recommend drafting your responses in a format that actively saves your content.** For your convenience, **make a copy of this document** and review the link to [the evaluation rubric](#).

You can choose to answer any or all questions through text, audio or video. If using audio or video, use the upload question at the end of each section and use the text box to indicate your use of multimedia input.

After completing the grant application, we have a few questions about you and your school district/organization that should take about 5 minutes to complete.

Once you have submitted your application, it will be reviewed by our partners at Digital Promise and other outside reviewers. If your project is selected, the email address you provide will receive a notification by the Rainwater Charitable Foundation team.

### Question Key

- Evidence of Effectiveness
- Potential Impact on Student Outcomes
- Stakeholder Alignment
- Feasibility/Readiness
- Scalability
- Sustainability

**\*\*All Questions have a 1500 character limit\*\***

## Part 1: Problem & Population

*Focus: Impact & Stakeholder Alignment*

**1. Curricular Outcomes** What is the main outcome this project is seeking to improve?

- Math
- Reading
- Not listed: Please specify

**2. Your Challenge** What's a challenge identified by your educators, students, or families in this subject area?

*Please describe how these stakeholders helped define this challenge. Please support the stated challenge with both quantitative and qualitative data.*

**3. Scale Plan**

3a. What is the specific student population within your school/district you're hoping to support?

*Please support the selection of this population with both quantitative and qualitative data.*

3b. How many students and teachers will be directly involved in this initiative?

3c. How many students and teachers could this initiative be scaled to within your district if it's successful?

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## Part 2: Your Solution

*Focus: Evidence of Effectiveness*

**4. Our Innovation** How are you hoping to solve this challenge with the support of AI or other emerging technologies over the next school year? Why do you think the use of AI would drive greater impact?

*Please include how your research-based approach leverages AI or other technology in innovative ways. Describe how you have engaged students, families, and staff in the design of this project and how they will remain consulted throughout.*

**5. Evidence of Effectiveness** What's the evidence-based emerging tech tool or approach you hope to use? How and how often will the AI tool be used in practice? (Specific features, frequency of use, dosage if applicable)

*Please provide research/evidence for the innovation's effectiveness (citations, research studies, ESSA Tiers of evidence, certifications like Digital Promise/ISTE, etc.) If there is no established research basis, what research-based methods or strategies lead you to believe the solution will be effective?*

**6. ||| Effectiveness in Your Context** What is the evidence base that helps you think this tool or approach is well-positioned to drive improvement specifically in **your** district? Is this a tool you've piloted already or is it new to your district?

## Part 3: Measurement & Growth

*Focus: Impact & Feasibility*

**7. || Measuring Fidelity** How will you know that change is happening and that the implementation is effective?

*Please include both qualitative and quantitative data indicators.*

**8. ||| Measuring Outcomes** How will you determine if the final outcomes have been achieved?

*(Please include both qualitative and quantitative data indicators).*

## Part 4: Implementation

*Focus: Feasibility, Sustainability & Scale*

**9. ||| Project Plan** Explain how you will implement this solution over the course of the school year including training and data collection. How will you make this innovation and these outcomes a reality?

**10. ||| Project Budget** - Please upload a detailed project budget outlining the categories/line items to which RCF grant funds will be applied.

**11. ||| Implementation & Buy-in** Describe the implementation and training plan for teachers and students. How have you ensured that district leaders, families, and students are bought into this initiative and included in the planning process? How does this work fit into existing district initiatives and priorities?

**12. ■ ■ Readiness & Risk** What supports (technical, financial, or personnel) would you need to implement this initiative? What are the risks to the success of this project, and how do you plan to mitigate them?

**13. ■ ■ Sustainability & Scaling** How will the work continue and scale beyond the scope of this grant? If successful, what are the ongoing costs? Describe how you will share these findings to advocate for broader adoption across your district or region.

**Letter of Support** - *Please provide letters of support as indicated below*

- *Teachers: One letter from your school leadership and one letter from your district*
- *School leaders: One letter from the district*
- *District leaders: One letter from a school leader*

## Your information

**1. Are you located in Texas?** Yes/No

**2. Which school/district are you representing?**

**3. What is your name (first, last)?**

**4. What is your professional email address?** This email must be affiliated with a school or district in Texas.

**5. What is your role/title?**

- a. Teacher
- b. Instructional Coach
- c. School Administrator
- d. District Leader
- e. Not listed: Please describe

**6. What best describes your school system/model**

- a. Charter
- b. Public K-12 Institution
- c. Not listed: Please describe

**7. Are you the main contact to receive updates about this potential grant?** If not, please state a primary point of contact, including name and email.

**8. What is your mailing address for grant checks?**

**9. What is your EIN?**

**10. Please provide a signatory contact name & email address for the award letter**

**11. Is your organization is under a fiscal agent - if yes:**

**- What is your fiscal sponsor organization name?**

**- What is your fiscal sponsor EIN?**

**- Please upload a letter or statement signed by your fiscal agent confirming that the relationship between your organizations is active and that the fiscal agent is aware you are submitting grant requests for this project/purpose**

**11. Have you or your organization or any of the affiliated responding organizations previously received funding from the Rainwater Charitable Foundation?**

a. Yes

b. No

**12. Projects can vary in size and scope, from a single classroom to statewide initiatives. We'd love to understand the reach of your project. If funded, which region(s) of Texas will be impacted? The Texas Education Agency divides the state into 20 Education Service Center (ESC) regions. You can find your region on this map: [TEA ESC Map](#). All projects within Texas are eligible and will be considered.**

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. ESC 1 - Edinburg       | k. ESC 11 - Fort Worth  |
| b. ESC 2 - Corpus Christi | l. ESC 12 - Waco        |
| c. ESC 3 - Victoria       | m. ESC 13 - Austin      |
| d. ESC 4 - Houston        | n. ESC 14 - Abilene     |
| e. ESC 5 - Beaumont       | o. ESC 15 - San Angelo  |
| f. ESC 6 - Huntsville     | p. ESC 16 - Amarillo    |
| g. ESC 7 - Kilgore        | q. ESC 17 - Lubbock     |
| h. ESC 8 - Mount Pleasant | r. ESC 18 - Midland     |
| i. ESC 9 - Wichita Falls  | s. ESC 19 - El Paso     |
| j. ESC 10 - Richardson    | t. ESC 20 - San Antonio |

**13. Which age group or school level will be impacted by this proposal?**

- a. Early Childhood (PK-TK)
- b. Primary (Grades K-5)
- c. Secondary (Grades 6-12)
- d. Post-secondary
- e. PK-12
- f. K-12
- g. The age group is not listed: Please describe

**14. Who is the primary beneficiary for this project?**

- a. Teachers
- b. Instructional coaches
- c. Students
- d. Parents/caregivers
- e. Not listed: Please describe

**15. Which describes the project phase?**

- a. The classroom/school/district has not tried this tool before
- b. We have implemented this tool in one classroom or school.
- c. We have implemented this tool district-wide.

**16. Do we have your permission to include your proposal in a de-identified and anonymized article about the types of priorities educators and education leaders throughout Texas are aiming to work on?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**17. Did you use AI to complete this application? If so, how?**



### Rubric for Scoring RFA Applications

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| <b>Eligibility screen</b>   |        |
| Is the proposal to fund a solution that involves AI or emerging technology? | Yes/No |
| Is the proposal submitted by a school or district?                          | Yes/No |
| Is the proposal supporting a school or district in Texas?                   | Yes/No |
| <b>All answers need to be yes to move on to scoring.</b>                    |        |

| Criteria | 1. Poor | 2. Limited | 3. Satisfactory | 4. Good | 5. Excellent |
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| <p><b>Evidence of Effectiveness</b><br/>(20%)</p> <p><i>Does the tool or approach have an evidence or research basis that aligns with the populations intended to be served through this project?</i></p> | <p>No clear connection between the proposed use of technology and effectiveness.</p> | <p>Some vague or indirect connection between technology and potential student outcomes, with limited supporting evidence of effectiveness.</p> | <p>Clear connection between technology and research-based approach to improve student outcomes, but limited evidence supporting effectiveness.<br/>(ex. ESSA Tier 4)</p> | <p>Strong and clear connection between technology and positive student learning outcomes, with some supporting evidence from at least one research study.<br/>(ex. ESSA Tier 3)</p> | <p>Clear, direct, and well-supported connection between technology and positive student learning outcomes, with robust evidence (ex. ESSA Tiers 1 or 2)</p> |
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| <p><b>Potential Impact on Student Outcomes</b><br/>(30%)</p> <p><i>Can this project provide a strong impact on student learning?</i></p> | <p>The proposal does not demonstrate a clear or meaningful impact on student outcomes in math and reading.</p> | <p>The proposal has vague or unsubstantiated claims about student improvement, with no clear connection to math/reading outcomes.</p> | <p>The proposal has potential but lacks strong connection to a plan for measurable improvements in student outcomes.</p> | <p>The proposal shows strong potential to improve student outcomes, with some clear connections to student achievement goals.</p> | <p>The proposal clearly demonstrates how it will directly impact student outcomes in math and reading. The proposal includes a measurement approach to ensure data is leveraged to understand the impact for student learning.</p> |
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| <p><b>Stakeholder Alignment</b><br/>(15%)</p> <p><i>How are districts, educators, students and families brought into the initiative and included in the process so that the initiative can be successful?</i></p> | <p>No engagement or collaboration between relevant stakeholders demonstrated in application</p> | <p>Limited stakeholder engagement (teacher(s) and school leader(s)), with minimal input or contributions demonstrated in application.</p> | <p>Moderate stakeholder involvement (e.g., teachers and leaders), but lacks a comprehensive plan for families or students., but some key groups were not fully involved in the planning or decision-making process are not included in the application</p> | <p>Strong alignment across key stakeholders, with defined roles for the team and impact on the process.</p> | <p>Comprehensive and meaningful stakeholder engagement with clear evidence that input from all relevant groups informed design.</p> |
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| <p><b>Feasibility</b><br/>(15%)</p> <p><i>Can the district reasonable accomplish the innovation over the course of the school year?</i></p> | <p>The solution is not feasible within the district's available resources, timeline, or infrastructure.</p> | <p>There are concerns about feasibility due to major barriers in resources, training, or infrastructure that are not adequately addressed.</p> | <p>The solution is feasible but faces significant challenges, requiring substantial adjustments or support.</p> | <p>The solution is feasible but requires some additional resources or minor adjustments to fit within the district's constraints. The proposal identifies risks and mitigation strategies.</p> | <p>The proposed solution is highly feasible within the district's current resources, infrastructure, and timeline. The implementation plan is detailed, realistic, and clearly achievable, and considers mitigation strategies to identified risks.</p> |
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| <p><b>Scalability</b><br/>(10%)</p> <p><i>Is there reason to believe this innovation could scale to have a broader impact?</i></p> | <p>There is no clear strategy for scaling the proposal beyond the initial context.</p> | <p>The proposal shows limited scalability, with no clear plan for broader implementation or adoption.</p> | <p>Some elements of scalability are identified, but the expansion process is not well-defined or lacks sufficient resources.</p> | <p>The proposal can be scaled effectively within the current district or school, with a reasonable plan for expansion to other contexts.</p> | <p>The proposal has a clear plan for scaling across the school, to other schools, districts, or states, with well-defined strategies, resources, and capacity for expansion. Evidence shows a strong potential for broad impact.</p> |
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| <p><b>Sustainability</b><br/>(10%)</p> <p><i>Does this project have potential to make an impact beyond this grant?</i></p> | <p>The solution lacks a sustainability plan, and there are no clear strategies for ensuring continued support or scaling after the funding ends.</p> | <p>The project's sustainability is uncertain, with no clear plan or substantial resource support for continuation.</p> | <p>The sustainability plan is weak or underdeveloped, with limited ideas for ensuring the continuation of the project after funding ends.</p> | <p>The solution has a reasonable sustainability plan, including potential for ongoing funding, institutional support, or other resources to ensure long-term viability.</p> | <p>The project has a well-defined, long-term plan for continued funding, support, and resources, ensuring its sustainability beyond the initial funding period.</p> |
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