

Start Smart Texas Plan-of-Action Framework

Start Smart Texas (SST) is a state-level member of a national initiative, The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) seeks to mobilize community leaders across the country to work collaboratively in their own communities through formalized, cross-sector coalitions on the number one predictor of school success: third **grade reading**.

The Plan of Action (PoA) Framework is the process by which communities can apply to become both a Start Smart Texas (SST) and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Community Network. Existing and new coalitions are welcome to become SST communities. Collaboratives are not required to take the SST name to be part of the network.

Local collaboratives may use existing community action plans or are welcome to develop new action plans that describe how they propose to make progress toward indicators such as school readiness, parental engagement, attendance, summer learning, third-grade reading or math proficiency or other indicators that contribute toward grade-level reading and overall student success.

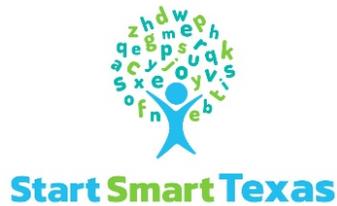
There are three parts to completing this process: the cover page, the community overview, and the action plan.

If you have any questions, please contact D'Ann Welch at D'Ann.Welch@tea.texas.gov

PART ONE: COVER PAGE(S)

In no more than two pages, please provide a cover letter that includes the following general information on your community:

- Specific geographic name by which the community lead wishes the community to be referenced on the Start Smart Texas and Campaign websites and in Start Smart Texas and Campaign publications.
- Geographic boundary covered by the Plan-of-Action Framework and served by the coalition (e.g., city, county, entire metro area, multiple counties, neighborhood, school district, school feeder pattern, small town, state, other).
- Community or population size (indicate specific range using the following categories: under 10k, 10k–25k, 25k–50k, 50k–100k, 100k–200k, 200k–500k, 500k+).
- Number and name(s) of school district(s) covered by/involved with your Campaign.
- Total number of students (K–12) in each district involved in your Campaign.
- Percent (and number) of K–12 students on free and reduced-price lunch for each district involved in your Campaign.



- Contact information for the cross-sector collaborative/coalition guiding this application including name, organization name, mail and email address.
- Specify sources of current and/or proposed financial support for the proposed work. Provide contact information of involved funders including program officer name and email address.
- Please describe the process utilized to develop this plan.

PART TWO: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW (Maximum 2 PAGES)

Please summarize your community's story. Please include any additional demographic information that you think would be helpful, beyond the demographic information already provided in your cover page(s) above to illuminate the history, character, strengths, and challenges of your community.

PART THREE: THE PLAN OF ACTION

A Start Smart Texas Plan-of-Action should include the following components:

1. *Current Landscape: Data*

Please describe the current state of your community using recent data or trend lines such as school readiness, parental engagement, 3rd or 4th grade reading or math, summer learning, or high school graduation. Where possible, use data that addresses economically disadvantaged, English-Language Learners, race/ethnicity, and any other data trends or anomalies that inform your work.

2. *Current Landscape: Services*

Provide an overview of existing services and strategies in place to address the issues revealed by the data in Section 1. If possible, identify where services or strategies are unavailable, missing, under-resourced, etc.

3. *Vision*

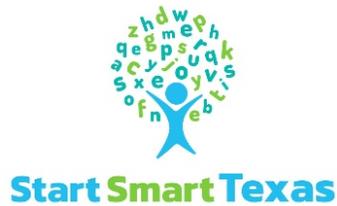
Please describe your collaborative's overarching vision. Where will your community be in five years in relation to school readiness, parental engagement, attendance, summer learning, and/or third-grade reading and/or math proficiency?

4. *Proposed Outcomes*

Please outline your coalition's proposed outcomes and goals for the next five years.

5. *Partnerships*

Please describe how your proposed work will connect and/or align with, support or augment other existing community efforts. Explain the steps taken so that your campaign will have broad-based support to succeed in your community.



6. ***Proposed Scope of Work***

Please outline the activities, programs, strategies or initiatives proposed to address each of the challenges that your coalition will be targeting/prioritizing. Identify if each strategy will either:

- Strengthen, expand, or scale existing work.
- Import, replicate, or adopt strategies from other communities.
- Develop or pilot new innovative strategies.
- Improve coordination of existing services.

7. ***Measuring Success***

Please describe how your collaborative will access data to set baselines, track progress and ensure accountability to track and evaluate progress toward the proposed outcomes and goals.

8. ***Sustainability***

Please describe the steps taken by the collaborative to ensure that this effort has broad-based support within the community, as well as the capacity and resources needed to implement the proposed strategies. Considerations should include:

- Local school improvement, education reform, and/or family support efforts supported by members of the sponsoring coalition.
- Initiatives by local school districts, health agencies and institutions, and state-level policy and/or initiatives.
- Mobilizing key stakeholders and important constituencies, including: teachers and school/district officials; elected officials; key leaders of public, business, civic and philanthropic organizations; public and private health providers, organizations and institutions; parents, caregivers and parent- serving organizations; service providers; program operators; and funders.
- Identifying the tables, venues and forums for conversation, ongoing joint planning, tracking progress/ making improvements and collective action.
- New and re-directed public, private and philanthropic dollars as well as dedicated citizen service and volunteer contribution.