Start Smart Texas Community Plan

Start Smart Texas (SST) is a partnership between Texas PBS and United Ways of Texas focused on mobilizing community leaders across the state to work collaboratively to close the achievement gap. We are seeking new community partners to join **Start Smart Texas**. The goal of this work is to mobilize existing cross-sector coalitions to prioritize and/or to encourage new coalitions to target the number one predictor of school success: third-grade reading.

In communities across our state -- nonprofits, school districts, business, foundations and many other stakeholders -- are coming together to align their efforts toward common goals and focus on ensuring all children have opportunities to succeed in school. Start Smart Texas strives to support these local collaborative efforts through learning opportunities, technical assistance and best practices.

Start Smart Texas is a state-level partner of the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading -- a collaborative effort by foundations, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation -- to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship.

If you have any questions, please contact Adrianna Cuellar Rojas at United Ways of Texas at adrianna.cuellar@uwtexas.org or Kierstan Schwab at Texas PBS at kschwab@texaspbs.org.

How to Apply

In order to apply to be part of **Start Smart Texas**, we recommend your community submit a plan with the following three components:
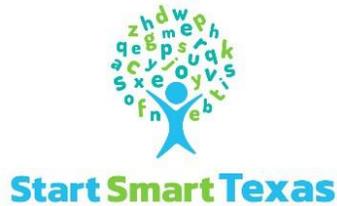
PART ONE – The Collaborative

1. **Your Collaborative's Primary Contact Information**
Please provide contact information for your cross-sector collaborative/coalition including name, organization, mail and email address.

2. **Your Collaborative and Other Community Partnerships**
List the organizations participating in your collaborative and describe how you propose to connect and/or align with, support or augment any other existing community efforts. How is the current collaborative funding your early education work or how do you propose to do so?

PART TWO – Community Overview

1. **Your Community: Strengths and Opportunities/Needs**

Please define your target geography (such as city/county/metro area/neighborhood, school district/feeder pattern), population size, number and names of partner school districts, number of students per district and number of student eligible.

Describe your community using recent data or trend lines such as school readiness, parental engagement, third or fourth grade reading or math, summer learning, or high school graduation.

2. **Existing and Proposed Community Strategies**

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. Please describe existing and/or proposed activities, programs, strategies or initiatives designed to address each of the challenges that your coalition has identified and is working to address.

PART THREE – The Plan of Action

1. **Your Collaborative's Vision and Goals**

Please describe your collaborative's overarching vision and goals related to school readiness, parental engagement, attendance, summer learning, and/or third-grade reading and/or math proficiency.

2. **How Do You Measure Success?**

How will your collaborative measure, track and evaluate your strategies and progress toward your goals?

3. **Resources and Sustainability**

Please describe the resources currently support your collaborative's work, and any proposed strategies to sustain your cross-sector work.