



Lasara T-STEM Academy
T-STEM Renewal Application
2018-2019

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Background

District Affiliation

LASARA ISD

DC #: 245901

Region: 01

Mailing Address (Line 1): P O BOX 57

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: LASARA, TX 78561

School Affiliation

LASARA H S

CDC #: 245-901-001

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): P O BOX 57

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: LASARA, TX 78561

LASARA EL

CDC #: 245-901-101

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): P O BOX 57

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: LASARA, TX 78561

Academy Information

T-STEM Academy Name:

Lasara T-STEM Academy

What grade level range will your academy serve in the 2018-2019 school year?

6-12

Grade Level	Number of Students
6	32
7	33
8	26
9	31
10	32
11	32
12	27

Contacts

Business Partner

Affiliation: Watson's City Drug

Job Title: Owner

Full Name: Mrs. Mary Ann Kiefer

Email: kiefer.maryann@yahoo.com

Phone Number: 956-689-2161

Superintendent

Job Title: Superintendent

Full Name: Ms. Sara Alvarado

Email: salvarado@lasaraisd.net

Phone Number: 956-642-5473

Applicant

Job Title: Principal

Full Name: Mr. Israel Quintanilla

Email: iquintanilla@lasaraisd.net

Phone Number: 956-642-5466

IHE Liaison

Affiliation: Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Job Title: Dual Enrollment Coordinator

Full Name: Mrs. Miranda Joiner

Email: miranda.joiner@tamuk.edu

Phone Number: 361-593-4574

Narratives

Model Implementation

Which T-STEM model does the district intend to implement at this time? Within these models, there are variations. For this purpose campus is defined as a CDC number not a physical location.

Stand Alone Academy - All students on the campus are enrolled in the T-STEM academy

Endorsements

Identify the current endorsements that are offered:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Public Services
- Arts and Humanities
- Multi-disciplinary Studies

Industry Certificates

Identify all industry certificates offered to students.

Certificate	Description
Nursing Assistant	Certified Nursing Assistant License for Texas
CPR/First Aid	CPR/First Aid Certification
Mircosoft Office Expert Word	Microsoft Office Expert Word
Quickbooks	Quickbooks

Level One Certificates

Identify all level one certificates offered to students.

Certification	Description
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Level Two Certificates

Identify all level two certificates offered to students.

Certification	Description
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Key Elements for Success

Provide a link to the job description, roles of design team, leadership team, and advisory board.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to your mission statement.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/District%20Information%7CAbout%20Us>

Provide a link to the final, signed, and executed MOU.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's master schedules.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's Student IGPs with CCRS and Performance Acknowledgement Plans.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's written admission policy and enrollment application.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's written recruitment plan including a timeline of recruitment and enrollment events, and recruitment materials for distribution at feeder schools and other appropriate locations in the community

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's description of instruction practices.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's STEM-focused extracurricular activities.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's internship and externship opportunities.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's Senior Capstone Project description.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's Student Portfolio Plans.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's Academic Literacy Plan.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Provide a link to the academy's Assessment strategy.

<http://www.lasaraisd.net/vnews/display.v/SEC/T-STEM>

Free-Response

Describe how the Academy will recruit, support, and retain highly qualified teachers.

Our students in our community and those that are transfer students deserve the best quality education that we can provide for them. Lasara ISD will continue to recruit new teachers for vacant teaching positions with highly qualified teachers. Region One ESC supports this endeavor through their One App application process for potential staff member in our school district. One App makes applying for a job at Lasara ISD (& other school districts) electronically easy. All forms are online and information is entered and necessary documentation can be downloaded and uploaded to the application for the potential future employer to access. Our district website @ www.lasaraisd.net can be utilized to access what Lasara ISD is all about. Project RISE, a 5 year grant (began in Feb. 2017) has provided us with Sign-On Bonuses of \$3000 for Math, Science, and Agriculture for recruitment of potential teaching staff. Our social media web-page on FACEBOOK provides opportunities to post announcements of activities and calendar events that are occurring in our school district. With Project RISE, our teachers receive professional development with other school districts allowing for networking opportunities for our teachers to get to see and know of "Best Practices" in other schools, while giving the chance to become better teachers to our students at Lasara ISD. Project RISE is a compensation-based reward grant giving teachers opportunities to gain extra supplement to their income through the performance of their students and the teacher's personal appraisal instrument rating. Teachers attend professional development on days out of their contract teaching days to supplement their income, also. Master & Mentor teachers are giving the opportunity to be leaders at their respective campuses. Three of our teachers reside in the small community of Lasara. Many teachers have ties in one way or another to someone in the community that gives us the stability and low-teacher turnover from year to year. Lasara ISD low student-to-teacher ratio in most of our classes is very appealing to new teachers to our school. The Teacher & Principal Recruitment Grant of \$16.938 will be used to further recruit qualified teachers to our school. Our Elementary, Middle School and High School students are all in one building, under one roof. This uniqueness to our school is why several teachers stay and teach at Lasara ISD until they retire. Lasara ISD Administration is supportive of those who want to pursue advanced degrees and encourage our paraprofessionals to become certified teachers. Lasara ISD Designated STEM Academy is the place to learn and to teach.

Describe the current STEM pathways available at the academy.

Lasara STEM Academy has provided students with interest surveys to analyze what the needs and wants of our students are so we are able to provide them with STEM pathways that are of interest to them. Our student demographics also play a key role in determining what STEM pathways are of greater interest for our students. Students are interested in STEM related fields, business fields and agricultural fields and we offer pathways in Agricultural Science, STEM, Arts, A/V Technology and Communications, and Business Management & Administration, Finance and Marketing. Refer to attachment on STEM Tab at Lasara ISD for more information.

An orientation is given toward the end of the school year for incoming freshman (bridging opportunity from Middle to High School) that parents and students must attend to discuss the different pathways, endorsements, student and parent responsibilities, and Individualized Graduation Plans. During this orientation parents and students are met with to discuss the various pathways and endorsements available. After discussing the pathways, students are given the opportunity to decide on the pathway and endorsements that they would like to pursue and both students and parents are asked to sign the student's Individualized Graduation Plan. Changes that occur to the IGP's will be updated and signed by the student and a copy sent to the parents. Students should know what they expect to reach by the time that they graduate from Lasara ISD and be ready for PostSecondary studies.

Describe how strategic alliances with industry partners and IHEs will support the Academy. The description should include details regarding the role of each IHE, business, and/or community partnership; along with parent/family partnerships and communication conventions with the Academy.

Lasara STEM Academy has strong business industry alliances with S&S Produce, Watson's Pharmacy and Boutique, and VTX communications which are industry partners that we work very closely with and that support our Academy and our students. S&S Produce provides internship opportunities with our students and gives them the opportunity to learn about business and agriculture. Watson's Pharmacy and Boutique also allows our students to participate in internship opportunities to learn about the business industry. VTX provides our students with scholarships and job shadowing opportunities. With each of our partnerships, we have strong and continuous communication, our partners are invited to STEM events throughout the year. Our partners also serve as senior capstone panelists, career day speakers, science fair judges, and advisory board members.

Lasara STEM Academy has strategic alliances with the following IHE's: Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK), South Texas ISD, and Texas Virtual Schools Network (TxVirtual) in Amarillo. Our alliance with TAMUK allows our students to participate in the dual enrollment program to earn college credit. TxVirtual is provided through Amarillo ISD in which our students take Art I through virtual learning and students attending South Texas ISD's half day program will complete at least a level I certificate by the time they graduate from high school.

We host a College Fair at our Lasara ISD Sports Complex in the Fall & Spring of each year. We invite neighboring school districts to attend with us; therefore, providing networking possibilities and educational opportunities to our schools and IHEs.

We have had an alliance with Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Students in the past and plan on renewing this alliance this coming school year in order to give our students the opportunity to earn certifications in numerous areas, such as welding, automotive, computer technology, cyber security, health sciences and wind technology.

Our communication with our parents and families is continuous throughout the year through the utilization of our community center and our school Facebook page. Our community center sends a monthly calendar of events for community members and their students to participate in. The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley Nursing Program worked closely with our staff and community members to create a Health Fair,, "Buena Salud", to fit the needs of our community members and students by offering educational services, free screenings, and vaccinations.

Describe the Academy's work-based and contextual learning in the curriculum.

NEPRIS is a virtual class in which student's use Skype technology to communicate with the instructor and learn the necessary objectives for the Art course as well as use Blackboard to post completed assignments.

Students complete numerous PBL's throughout the curriculum such as learning about meteorology and researching specific hurricanes of different categories and their wind velocities and speeds, directions, and effects. Students have also been learning how to do coding (Bridging students from 5th to 6th grade) in computer technology and to create codes to make a product. In Commercial Photography students learn how to navigate photo shop technology and manipulate different media to create products. As part of biology, students learn how to extract DNA for analysis. The ESSA Title One part A-TEKS Grant, Education of Migrant Children Grant, Teacher and Principal Training Grant, English Language Acquisition & Enhancement Grant (Bilingual Students), Rural & Low-Income School Programs Grant and the Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grant allow for added funds to be used to meet the different needs of our students at Lasara ISD to enrich the curriculum already in use at our school district. PLCs & Curriculum Writing Days put into our master calendar give the chance to meet vertically and horizontally by subject area and grade level with other teachers. Student projects have rubrics (students know this before they begin what is expected) to assess what is expected in the particular subject area. The curriculum, from its different sources at times, is rich and meaningful to create great student learners.

Describe the STEM-focused extracurricular activities (field experiences, clubs, and competitions) offered to students.

Lasara T-STEM Academy focuses on a large range of extracurricular activities through field experiences, club, and competitions. Students in grades 6-12 are able to attend field experiences to different colleges here locally and throughout the state of Texas. College and career fairs are also provided during the school year for both middle and high school students to attend. Our T-STEM Academy also offers a variety of clubs in order to touch on a large venue of student interests in which students also perform in competitions. Our Coding Club (bridging opportunity from 5th to 6th grade) gives students some reasons in math why students need to know their math skills to use for math, science, and technology in middle and high school and leading to college prep courses. The STEM Clubs that we offer are STEM Ambassadors, Robotics, Future Farmers of America/Agriculture Club, Meteorology Club, and Computer Science Club. Students compete in robotics, aquatic robotics, math counts, science Olympiads. STEM ambassadors are involved in activities throughout the campus, such as presenting during career days on projects they have completed, assisting teachers in the classroom, and assisting during college and career fair. STEM Day on "Dia de los Ninos" gives teachers and students an opportunity to create a lesson and share, on a rotation basis, to other students to gain interest and relevance in the STEM fields. Our Ambassadors also attend the Student by Student Technology and Leadership Conference in which they attend different STEM mini-session. STEM-focused activities at our school give students experience and knowledge of STEM related fields of study for possible career choices in their future.