



Lasara T-STEM Academy
T-STEM Renewal Application
2019-2020

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Background

District Affiliation

LASARA ISD

CD #: 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

Are you currently in the 2018-2019 planning year or are a 2018-2019 planning grantee?

Yes

What grade level range will your academy serve in the 2019-2020 school year?

6-12

Grade Level	Number of Students	School / CDC # Where Students are Enrolled
6	34	LASARA EL (245901101)
7	28	LASARA EL (245901101)
8	32	LASARA EL (245901101)
9	24	LASARA H S (245901001)
10	30	LASARA H S (245901001)
11	32	LASARA H S (245901001)
12	27	LASARA H S (245901001)

Contacts

Business Partner

Affiliation: Workforce Solutions Lower Rio

Job Title: CEO, Chief Executive Officer

Full Name: Mr. Francisco Almaraz

Email: francisco@wfsolutions.org

Phone Number: 956-928-5000

Superintendent

Job Title: Superintendent

Full Name: Ms. Sara Alvarado

Email: salvarado@lasaraisd.net

Phone Number: 956-642-3598

Applicant

Job Title: Lasara ISD 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: Texas A & M Dual Enrollment Specialist

Full Name: Ms. 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: Multiple Campuses - 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
- Arts and Humanities
- Multi-disciplinary Studies

Certificates

Does this academy offer Associate Degrees to students?

No

TSIA

Does this academy administer the TSIA exam?

Yes

What ID number do students use when taking the TSIA exam?

Unique State Assigned ID

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 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 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 internship and externship opportunities.

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

Free-Response

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

Lasara ISD is known for their student's academic & athletic achievements in Willacy County. We are a rural community with 2 local grocery stores. We have local farmers that harvest several types of vegetables, onions, sugar cane, cotton, grain, and other types of food industry items that are able to be grown in our area. We offer "possible new teachers" a safe and enjoyable climate where most of our teachers and other staff members stay on staff for multiple years. There is a sign-on bonus payable in December and May of the school year for Math and Science teachers. We participate and send our administrators to actively recruit "possible interviews with prospective new teachers" with Region One at their Summer Job Fair held in June of each year. Project RISE (we are in the 3rd year of a 5 year grant) offers Recruitment and Retainment bonuses for our new teachers to our school district. Teachers can attain additional stipends with an ESL/Bilingual endorsements, Master Degrees, UIL Coordinators, UIL Coaches, Athletic Coaching positions, Project RISE Master & Mentor teachers, Compensation Grant possibilities up to \$3000 per year, and other opportunities as they become available based on need with comparable stipends with neighboring school districts. Teachers can offer RTI for students who need the extra help at a different time that in the classroom with additional pay involved. Project RISE (Performance-Based Incentive Grant) offers professional development opportunities for our teachers from research-base, data-driven and exceptional presenters. We have an overall low student to teacher ratio that is an added bonus for our teachers. Most of our teachers have been with the school district for a number of years. The climate, student attitude, and all-around atmosphere at Lasara ISD is to be commended.

Describe the current STEM pathways available at the academy.

At Lasara ISD we offer STEM pathways in the areas of Math, Career Technical Education, Science and Other STEM option for our students.

Students that pursue a Math pathway must complete Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and two additional math courses in which Algebra II is a pre-requisite. Students at Lasara ISD that pursue this pathway, will take Pre-Calculus and Calculus as their two additional course requirements.

Students that pursue a Career Technical Education pathway must complete two courses in the same career cluster, one advanced CTE course and a final course CTE course.

Students pursuing a Science pathway must complete four credits in science in addition to the required Biology course.

Students that choose to pursue a STEM pathway in another area much have Algebra II, Chemistry and Physics in addition to a coherent sequence of three additional credits from no more than two of CTE, computer science, math, and science. These are Pathways that are currently available Lasara ISD.

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.

Our strategic alliances are with TAMUK (Texas A&M University-Kingsville), Texas Workforce Commission, and other local businesses and partners. TAMUK offers our students the opportunity for Dual Enrollment classes at the RISD Satellite campus in Raymondville, as well as campus visits during the school year. The dual enrollment classes that are offered give our students a head-start toward their College degrees after the graduate from Lasara High School. We partner with TSTC (Texas State Technical College in Harlingen, Tx.) for the STARS /MARS program with Engineering for our Migrant Students. We partner with UTRGV-Edinburg for TexPrep for a 4-6 year Engineering Program to give students Elective credit for high school credit. We recently partnered with Texas A&M-College Station Agri-Life division for Healthy South Texas to make our school district (in an 8-week program) a Healthy South Texas District with Campus, Staff, Student, and Parent Components. The Texas Workforce Commission, with David Gutierrez, gives our students some job-ready skills and training to help prepare for the workforce. Career interest surveys, soft skills, resume writing, interviewing techniques, and other opportunities are available for students to be ready to apply for jobs that may become available in areas of their interest. S& S produce is one of our business partners that have offered internships to some of our students in the past. Other areas business in our neighboring town of Raymondville have offered internship opportunities to our students, like our DA Office, Doctor's office, Restaurants, Nursing Home, Car dealership, and other places of business. Workforce Solutions provided VAT (Vocational Academic Transition) for our Special Education Education students to satisfy work-based certification training (job ready).

Many of these students that are involved in these internships (in house at Lasara ISD: Library Aide, Coaches Aide, Nurses Aide, Teacher Aides, and other) have taken it upon themselves to initiate, participate and complete the programs on their free will. Communication skills are so necessary for everyone everywhere everyday. We have an awesome community of current partners and hope to build relationships with more partners to give our students opportunities to build on their experiences.

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

Students have several opportunities available to them for work-based STEM-related internships. Students who have completed most of their credits by their senior year can participate in internships, on or off campus. Students can intern in our school cafeteria, business office, nurse's office, teacher's classrooms (as a teacher assistant), clerical and secretarial experiences within our school district. Healthy South Texas is a new initiative with Texas A&M-College Station Agri-Life division being utilized through our Agriculture Science classes in the High School, students are being taught the importance of eating healthier and then going to the elementary classrooms and helping the Ag teacher teach the lessons to younger students in Pre-K--8th grade. Students can initiate and execute internships off-campus and an MOU is drawn up with the partnering business entity to make it clear on both ends the responsibility of each. Courses at Lasara High School include; Technology Applications classes, Computer Science I & II, Agriculture Science, and opportunities for students to be Teacher Aides, Office Aides, Nurses Aides, Cafeteria Aides, etc.. Students try to embrace their academic strengths when committing to an internship. Student curriculum and coursework at Lasara High School support our STEM environment focus.

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

STEM, STEM, STEM is all you hear at one time or another at Lasara ISD. We have scheduled STEM days for the Fall and Spring semester and ALL (Pre-K-12th grade) students participate in one way or another. Students are encouraged to seek STEM -related fields for their internships. Our Robotics club meet every Saturday in the spring to get ready for competition in San Antonio, Austin, Waco, or Del Rio. This year they will be competing in Austin and Del Rio, Texas on March 2nd & March 22nd. Our Computer Science (coding) club is active with students using Legos and computer software (being utilized in Computer Science class) to get them more involved with their new knowledge. Our new partnerships with Coastal Studies, with Richard Gonzalez & Rhonda Gonzalez, have added field experiences for our students in 5th grade-12th grade through our science classes. STEM day(s) is giving students at all grade levels the opportunity to experience STEM-related activities and knowledge. High school students become the leaders of the STEM activity within the elementary classroom with teacher guidance. Healthy South Texas partnered with Texas A&M-College Station Agri-life division bring Food Science to the classrooms at Lasara ISD. Lasara ISD from Pre-K-12th grade students are all in one building; therefore, with creative scheduling, we can provide the STEM experience to all students on the same day at the same time. We plan to offer more opportunities for STEM-related experiences for our students at Lasara ISD.