

2026 Elevate Application Questions Rubric

School Name

LEA Name

USB E Reviewer Name

Score

The descriptors below emphasize readiness, clarity, evidence, and commitment—all critical indicators of a school's likelihood of successfully implementing the Elevate process.

Score	Descriptor	General Criteria
Exemplary 4	Response is comprehensive, specific, and compelling.	Demonstrates deep reflection, provides clear evidence or examples, presents a realistic and well-developed plan, and shows strong commitment and readiness for sustained school improvement.
Proficient 3	Response is clear and adequate.	Addresses the question with sufficient detail, provides some supporting rationale or examples, and demonstrates reasonable readiness and commitment, though some details could be strengthened.
Developing 2	Response is partially developed.	Addresses the question superficially, provides limited evidence or specificity, and demonstrates only moderate readiness or planning. Important details or rationale are missing.
Limited 1	Response is incomplete or unconvincing.	Does not adequately address the question, lacks evidence or specificity, demonstrates little readiness or commitment, or provides vague, generic, or unrealistic statements.

Question-Specific Indicators

Application Question	Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Limited (1)
1. Why is now the right time for the school to participate in Elevate?	Clearly explains why participation is timely, citing current challenges, opportunities, data, leadership readiness, or organizational conditions that make Elevate particularly appropriate.	Provides a reasonable explanation for participating now with some supporting rationale.	Gives a general reason for participating but lacks supporting evidence or urgency.	Provides little or no justification for why the appropriate time is now.
2. What will success look like four years from now?	Presents a compelling, realistic vision with specific outcomes for students, staff, systems, and culture that align with sustained improvement.	Describes a generally clear vision with several meaningful outcomes.	Vision is broad or vague and focuses on limited outcomes.	Vision is unclear, unrealistic, or missing.
3. Is the school prepared to make meaningful changes based on evidence?	Demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous improvement, describes how evidence informs decisions, and acknowledges willingness to adapt practices.	Indicates readiness to use evidence for improvement with some supporting examples.	Expresses general openness to change but provides limited evidence of organizational readiness.	Demonstrates little evidence of readiness or willingness to make meaningful changes.
4. How will the school devote the time and resources needed to implement the improvement plan with fidelity?	Provides a detailed, feasible plan describing leadership support, staff time, resource allocation, professional learning, and systems for monitoring implementation.	Describes a reasonable plan for allocating time and resources with adequate detail.	Mentions time or resources but lacks specificity or feasibility.	Provides little or no plan for supporting implementation.

Overall Scoring

Total Score	Recommendation
14-16	Strong candidate for Elevate participation; demonstrates high readiness and capacity for sustained improvement.
10-13	Suitable candidate; demonstrates adequate readiness with some areas requiring clarification or additional support.
6-9	Limited readiness; participation may require significant coaching and capacity building before implementation.
4-5	Not currently prepared for successful participation; substantial foundational work is needed before entering the Elevate process.