



Vision for School Improvement

Maine DOE’s overall vision is moving from a focus on LEA and school compliance to having a deep understanding of school needs so that DOE can support them. It is investing in building leadership capacity, increasing data and assessment literacy and providing regionally-based professional learning aligned to school needs.

Key Strategies

PROGRESS UPDATES: DOE is engaging stakeholder advisory group monthly as it develops its approach to school improvement, completing a needs assessment for every LEA in the state and shifting to a professional learning strategy based on regional needs.

CHALLENGES: DOE is working through a shift in how all its departments embed support for SI in their work and its strained capacity to address the needs of significantly more schools identified under ESSA.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & COMPLIANCE

- **Templates and rubrics for improvement plans:** Developed needs assessment rubrics
- **Professional development:** Provided TA on the needs assessment and on how to develop/implement plans, launched a transformational leader's network for CSI principals and instituted leadership coaching
- **Guidance:** Developed materials to explain the process to educators, families and community members and provided guidance to LEAs on how the DOE will identify, support and intervene in CSI and TSI schools
- **Structures and processes:** Developed or updated processes to (a) provide feedback to LEAs on SI efforts, (b) work with ESAs to provide TA to LEAs and schools and (c) monitor progress

Key Updates

NEW POLICY/REGULATIONS: DOE is in the process of revising its rules to better reflect and support the NA process.

NEW SEA PRACTICE: Maine DOE is creating new structures and teams—for instance in the Office of Learning Support—to better support school improvement.

Funding: Blended Approach

DOE provides funding using a formula but schools also can apply for additional funds through a competitive grant process.

State and School Needs SEA

Building assessment and data literacy, increasing knowledge of EBIs and creating additional school supports

SCHOOLS

Building understanding of new accountability model, increasing support for school leaders and accessing high-quality professional learning

Implementation Timeline

Fall '18	SI planning year begins; state report card released
Winter '19	ATSI & CSI schools identified; LEA SI grant application opens
2019-20 SY	Full implementation of SI system
TBD	LEA resource allocation audit