



Vision for School Improvement

MSDE’s approach is comprehensive: It is conducting a root cause analysis; investing in school-based leadership through coaching and professional learning; building capacity of school system leaders to use data to inform the selection and implementation of strategies; vetting curriculum to ensure standards-alignment; and reorganizing and aligning SEA systems of support.

Key Strategies

PROGRESS UPDATES: MSDE is implementing a state system of support; providing customized professional learning focused on effective practices to school leadership team; and providing TA on data analysis and data-informed decision-making at school and LEA levels.

CHALLENGES: MSDE is changing the way it fosters SI in CSI schools by aligning the supports that various divisions within MSDE provide schools and also working to develop greater trust between itself and low-performing schools.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & COMPLIANCE

- **Templates and rubrics for improvement plans:** Developed (a) a rubric to evaluate LEA applications, (b) a needs assessment template and rubric for CSI schools, (c) a root cause analysis tool and (d) EBI tools
- **Professional development:** Held convenings to review changes to the SI application and provided TA on how to develop and implement plans and coaching for principals of CSI schools
- **Guidance:** Developed materials to explain the process to educators, families and community members and provided guidance to LEAs on (a) ESSA requirements, (b) actions MSDE will take to identify and support CSI and TSI schools, and (c) implementation strategies for TSI schools
- **Structures and processes:** Developed or updated processes to (a) conduct a root cause analysis and complete a NA, (b) monitor SI progress and (c) provide feedback to LEAs on SI efforts

Key Updates

NEW POLICY/REGULATIONS: The Protect Our Schools Act requires school communities to engage in the SI planning process; limits use of Title I dollars for vouchers, charter/private operator handovers, state-run LEAs, and the creation of new school districts; and limits the combined total academic indicators in the school accountability system to 65% of the composite score.

NEW SEA PRACTICE: MSDE will (a) revise the school application to reinforce state goals for SI, (b) require a root cause analysis and a NA that all identified schools must complete and (c) provide support to local school systems on how to identify EBIs, ascertain readiness for implementation, implement interventions with fidelity, and monitor the effectiveness of implementation.

Funding: Blended

Schools receive funds based on a fixed per pupil allocation, but additional funds may be awarded to schools that have met or exceeded interim or annual progress measures.

State and School Needs SEA

Preparing current and future school administrators and teachers to significantly improve low-performing schools and sustain improvement efforts

SCHOOLS

Allocating time, funds, and structures for principals and school leadership teams to focus on school improvement in alignment with ESSA requirements

Implementation Timeline

Summer '18	LEA SI grant application opens
Fall '18	TSI & CSI schools identified; SI pre-implementation year begins; state report card released
Winter '18	Conduct Root Cause Analysis; complete NA and identify EBIs
2018-19 SY	LEA resource allocation audit
2019-20 SY	Full implementation of SI system