



Vision for School Improvement

Montana OPI is taking an holistic approach, advocating for plans focused on academics and culture. A continuous improvement cycle will guide efforts at all levels of the system.

Key Strategies

PROGRESS UPDATES: OPI is collaborating across departments to better support CSI/TSI schools, and agency staff are already working with CSI schools on implementing plans.

CHALLENGES: Travelling across a large state is difficult. It requires significant resources and cross-division coordination and communication.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & COMPLIANCE

- **Templates and rubrics for improvement plans:** Developed (a) a rubric to evaluate LEA applications, (b) needs assessment rubrics for CSI schools (TSI schools use CSIP) and (c) an exemplary CSI template plan
- **Professional development:** Provided two-day training to CSI schools to review changes to the application and help leaders develop plans
- **Guidance:** Developed materials to explain the process to educators, families and community members and provided guidance to LEAs on (a) ESSA regulations to which schools and LEAs must conform, (b) the actions OPI will take to identify, support and intervene in CSI and TSI schools, (c) SI implementation strategies for TSI schools and (d) evidence-based strategies aligned to ESSA requirements
- **Structures and processes:** Created approved list of external providers and 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: MT updated state laws to conform with its ESSA plan for SI.

NEW SEA PRACTICE: OPI (a) revised the LEA application to reinforce state goals for SI, (b) consolidated the LEA school improvement application and (c) provided evidence-based strategies

Funding: Blended Approach

The majority of SI funds will go to CSI schools. The CSI formula includes a base amount in addition to extra funding based on student enrollment. Some funds will be allocated to support PD opportunities for TSI schools and some funds will be allocated to OPI to support the work.

State and School Needs

SEA

Strategies to support schools with high percentages of American Indian students and low-income students

SCHOOLS

Leadership development for principals and superintendents to enhance skills and increase retention

Implementation Timeline

2017-18 SY	TSI & CSI schools identified; LEA SI grant application opens
Fall '18	Full implementation of SI system
Winter '19	State report card released
TBD	LEA resource allocation audit