



Vision for School Improvement

TDOE’s theory of action for school improvement is based on four guiding principles: strong leadership, effective instruction, student support and talent management.

Key Strategies

PROGRESS UPDATES: TDOE is opening a dedicated office of SI that will emphasize school leadership, redesigning the LEA grant application, creating a qualitative monitoring component and developing a SI resource guide.

CHALLENGES: TDOE is working to help LEAs and schools engage authentically in the needs assessment process as opposed to their treating it as a compliance exercise.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & COMPLIANCE

- **Templates and rubrics for improvement plans:** Developed (a) a rubric to evaluate LEA applications, (b) needs assessment rubrics and (c) an exemplary CSI template plan
- **Professional development:** Held convenings to cover changes to the application and provided TA on how to implement 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 TDOE will take to identify, support and intervene in CSI and TSI schools and (c) evidence-based SI strategies aligned to ESSA requirements
- **Structures and processes:** Developed or updated processes to (a) recruit, screen, select and evaluate external partners/providers, (b) provide feedback to LEAs on SI efforts, (c) work with ESAs to provide TA to LEAs and schools and (d) monitor progress

Key Updates

NEW POLICY/REGULATIONS: TN updated state laws to conform with its ESSA plan for SI.

NEW SEA PRACTICE: TDOE will (a) revise the LEA application to reinforce state goals for SI, (b) provide evidence-based SI strategies, (c) administer funds on a competitive basis to LEAs with identified schools and (e) develop new offices/roles within TDOE focused on SI.

Funding: Blended Approach

CSI LEA-level funding is based on the percentage of priority schools within the LEA. TSI applications will be invitation-only for LEAs that are serving high percentages of priority schools. TDOE will fund applications that it considers to be of high quality.

State and School Needs

SEA

More capacity to support school improvement because TDOE has built a new office for SI and also investing in regional offices

SCHOOLS

Additional resources to support capacity-building and long term sustainability

Implementation Timeline

Fall '18

ATSI & CSI schools identified; LEA SI grant application opens; full implementation of SI system; state report card released

Fall '19

LEA resource allocation audit; TSI schools identified