**School Improvement Retention of Funds Request Form (2024-2025 SY)**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires the state to reserve 7% of its Title I, Part A allocation to provide supports and services to districts with schools identified for support and improvement. Although the vast majority of the funds are distributed to districts through grant opportunities, ESSA allows the state to retain a portion of the school improvement funds to provide direct supports and services to its districts with identified schools, if the state has permission from its districts. **The retention of these funds DOES NOT have any impact on the amount of funds Local Educational Agencies (LEAs, districts and BOCES) receive through other grant programs under ESSA, including the formula grant programs such as Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title III, Part A, or Title IV, Part A.**

With the 7% reserved each year for school improvement funds (1003 School Improvement distribution funds), the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) provides grant opportunities to eligible school districts and BOCES through the **Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) application**. Additionally, CDE provides technical assistance and support to districts with identified schools, such as assigning a Support Coordinator to each district. As in past years, CDE is requesting the permission of school districts and BOCES with identified schools to reserve the necessary funds to be able to make available supports and services to LEAs with identified schools.

Last year, CDE set aside approximately $12 million of the state’s Title I allocation to support schools identified for ESSA support and improvement and make grants available through EASI. With local education agencies permission, CDE reserved approximately $1 million of the state level to provide direct support and services to districts with schools identified for Improvement during the 2023-2024 school year. The purpose of this letter is to request permission to retain funds for the 2024-2025 school year at the state level to continue to provide grants, support, and services, as in prior years.

CDE utilizes the retained funds to provide intensive support and technical assistance to schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Targeted Support, such as:

* **School Transformation Network** –The Network is a highly collaborative and accountable endeavor between local schools, their LEAs, and the Colorado Department of Education. Schools in the Network will benefit from enhanced diagnostic reviews and planning support; personalized, professional learning opportunities with a cohort of peer schools; and additional resources through supplemental grant funding. For more information visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/cdeofferedservices-turnaroundnetwork>
* **Connect for Success** - Schools receive a diagnostic visit and a report that includes recommendations from a CDE team based on the findings of a study of high achieving Colorado schools. Schools work with a CDE Implementation Manager to replicate the High Achieving Schools strategies as well as monitor the implementation of those practices. To date, 36 Colorado Title I schools have participated in the CFS grant. The first cohort of grantees has now completed two and a half years of implementation.  Based on 2019 preliminary School Performance Framework (SPF) results, over 76% of those schools are no longer on the accountability clock (i.e., Priority Improvement, Turnaround). For more information visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/cdeofferedservices-connectforsuccess>
* **English Language Development Program Review** – The Office of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education offers a district-wide and/or school level review of English language development (ELD) program(s). The results and recommendations from the ELD program review will provide a framework to establish and improve the school’s overall ELD programming and systems. This is inclusive of the unique academic, linguistic, and social-emotional needs of English learners.
* **Support for improvement planning and implementation** – The Office of Federal Programs in conjunction with the Office of Unified Improvement assists LEAs and schools in identifying needs and building a plan to address those needs. In addition, both offices ensure that LEAs understand the plan requirements with either a CS or TS identification.

This is the paper copy of the form and is only for planning/sharing purposes. Please complete the form within the Consolidated Application in the [GAINS platform](https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com/default.aspx?ccipSessionKey=638418126835228432). The LEA’s Authorized Representative associated with the Consolidated Application has, or may obtain, access to the Consolidated Application platform. If you do not know the Authorized Representative for your LEA, contact the LEA’s [ESEA Regional Contact](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/ov/index).

If you have questions or need additional information in order to respond to this request, please contact Laura Meushaw at Meushaw\_l@cde.state.co.us.

Please select one:

☐ Yes, the LEA agrees to allow CDE to retain the amount allowed under statute for the 2024-2025 SY, Title I, Sec. 1003 school improvement funding to provide support through EASI for schools identified under the ESSA accountability system. **The retention of these funds by CDE WILL NOT change the amount of funds the LEA will receive through grant programs under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), including the formula grant programs such as Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title III, Part A, or Title IV, Part A.**

 ☐ No, the LEA does not agree to allow CDE to retain the amount allowed under statute for the 2024-2025 SY, Title I, Sec. 1003 school improvement funding to provide support through EASI for schools identified under the ESSA accountability system.

**LEA:**

**Signature of Authorized Representative:**

**Printed Name of Authorized Representative:**

**Please complete the Retention of Funds form by May 31, 2024 through the**

[**GAINS Platform in the ESEA ARAC Supplement**](https://colorado.egrantsmanagement.com/user/signin.aspx?ccipSessionKey=638430159639490214)

****