

# Supports for Schools Identified for Improvement

## DIAGNOSTIC REVIEW AND PLANNING

EASI Route: Exploration Supports


**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

### INTRODUCTION

The Diagnostic Review and Improvement Planning Grant is ideal for schools that are not sure of how to prioritize improvement efforts or that need time to explore options. LEAs are awarded funds on behalf of their schools to work with a CDE-trained partner to conduct a school-based diagnostic review process and/or a facilitated improvement planning process. Reviews result in a diagnostic report and recommended improvement actions. The facilitated improvement planning process is designed to assist the school in refining the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) to build upon the diagnostic review recommendations.

CDE-trained partners will provide the following services:

1. Conduct and report on a comprehensive, evidence-based review and report detailing how the school is functioning in the areas of:
  - Culture of Performance
  - Instructional Transformation
  - Talent Development
  - Leadership
2. In-person staff debrief including:
  - Key findings from the review
  - High level observations
  - Opportunities for improvement
3. Assistance with Improvement Planning Support through the UIP process, which may include:
  - Support for data gathering and organizing (pre-planning for data analysis)
  - Review of student performance data
  - Identification of trends and performance challenges
  - Prioritization of performance challenges
  - Root cause analysis
  - Target setting
  - Action planning
  - Progress monitoring
  - Involving relevant stakeholders (e.g., staff, school accountability committee) in data analysis and action planning

### Who Can I Contact For More Information?

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Applicants may apply for a diagnostic review and improvement planning support or improvement planning only.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PRIORITIZATION

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants are LEAs with schools that are identified for Comprehensive Support (CS), Targeted Support (TS), or Additional Targeted (Additional TS). Schools that have been awarded this grant in the last two years, and schools currently participating in the Tiered Intervention Grant and Connect for Success grant are not eligible.

**Prioritization:** If CDE is unable to fund all applications, then a prioritization process will be used. Unlike some of the other opportunities within the EASI, requests for this service will not be scored competitively. Consideration will be given to: (1) geographic representation, and (2) school identification type in the following order:

1. Comprehensive Schools – lowest 5% of Title I schools

2. Comprehensive Schools – low grad or completion rate and on the state accountability clock
3. Comprehensive Schools – low grad or completion rate and not on the state accountability clock (i.e., Improvement, Performance)
4. Additional Targeted Schools that are on the state accountability clock (i.e., Priority Improvement, Turnaround);
5. Additional Targeted Schools with an Improvement plan type
6. Additional Targeted Schools with a Performance plan type
7. Targeted Schools that are on the state accountability clock
8. Targeted Schools with an Improvement plan type
9. Targeted Schools with a Performance plan type

### AVAILABLE FUNDS

LEAs may apply on behalf of eligible schools for up to \$50,000 for a diagnostic review and improvement planning support. An LEA may choose to apply only for improvement planning support for an award of up to \$30,000.

### ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS

Funding for this opportunity may be used for:

- Cost of contracting with a CDE-trained partner or partners willing to be trained after the award
- Costs associated with the review visit (e.g., substitutes), an all staff debrief of the findings (e.g., stipends, copying)
- An improvement planning facilitator that has been or is willing to be trained by CDE, staff time (e.g., substitutes, stipends) and any other costs associated with the planning process (e.g., hosting a community meeting)

Funds from this opportunity must be used to **supplement and not supplant** any federal, state, and local funds currently being used to provide activities. There will be no carryover of funds. Unobligated funds at the end of the fiscal year will be returned to the CDE to be redistributed.

### IMPORTANT PROGRAM DATES

January	Award notifications
February	Kick-off meeting in Denver for new grantees
February – April	Diagnostic visit from CDE-approved partner
April	UIP due for LEAs/schools for public posting and CDE review of plan for documentation of grant requirements
June 30	Grant funds must be obligated
September 30	All grant funds must be requested from CDE or will be returned

### EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Schools receiving funds under this grant opportunity are required to:

- Submit the UIP that has been updated based on the results of the diagnostic review and/or improvement planning support for review by CDE. The school's UIP will be reviewed during the April submission timelines;
- Use the findings of the diagnostic review to inform the comprehensive needs assessment as part of the ESSA school improvement identification (i.e., CS schools, TS schools, Additional TS schools) and/or Title I Schoolwide Plan; and
- Submit the Annual Financial Report (AFR) to CDE.



CDE-trained providers are required to submit the final report to CDE for review and then to the grantee, within 30 days of the review date. Note that the final report is paid for with public funds and must be shared with the public, if requested.

### **PROGRAM ASSURANCES**

In addition to the assurances found on pages 14 - 15 of the EASI, LEAs that accept School Improvement services and/or funding for Diagnostic Review and Planning agree to the following:

1. The grantee will annually provide CDE the evaluation information outlined above.
2. The grantee will work with and provide the evaluation requested data to CDE for this grant within the timeframes specified above.

## **Where can I learn more?**

- [Diagnostic Review and Planning: www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/diagnosticreviewandplanninggrant](http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/diagnosticreviewandplanninggrant)