What’s New to EASI 2023?

# Empowering Action for School Improvement

## Overview

The Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) grant is entering Cohort 7 in 2023 and has approximately $15 million in funds available to eligible schools and districts. Each grant cycle, changes are made to improve the support, application process, and routes and services offered to eligible districts and schools. The following sections highlight the grant timeline and key changes and improvements made to the EASI grant since the previous grant cycle.

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| **Grant Timeline** | |
| EASI Grant Application opens | September 22, 2023 |
| Virtual EASI Fair | October 19, 2023- 1:00-2:30pm |
| EASI Office Hours- In depth support and details for those interested in COMTSS and District Designed and Led routes | November 2023 |
| EASI Grant Application Closes | **December 6, 2023 at 11:59pm** |
| EASI Grant- Review period | December-January |
| Award notifications | no later than January 31, 2024 |
| Post-award- Grant Management training and overview | February 2024 |

## Key Changes to EASI 2023

### After each grant cycle, CDE gathers feedback from districts, schools, and staff on ways to improve the offerings and approach of the EASI grant. The table below highlights the key changes made to EASI for the 2023 grant cycle.

| **Key Change** | **Description & Details** |
| --- | --- |
| **Change**  **Increased & Standardized Funding** | * Increased awards for several routes and limited grants to 2.5 years * Added a limit to total LEA awards for District Designed and Led grants up to $320,000 per year * For more information, please see the [EASI Menu of Supports](https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easimenuofsupports) for new route award amounts |
| **Change**  **EASI 2023 Eligibility & Prioritization** | * For 2023, state accountability plan types of “Improvement” are ineligible for EASI routes and services. * Bonus points have been added for schools serving grade 12 and schools and districts who have not previously received an EASI grant. * For more information, please see [EASI 2023 Eligibility & Prioritization](https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiappresourcesandtechnicalassistance). |
| **Change**  **Accountability Pathways** | * Eligibility shift- Focus on districts and schools in Year 4 or 5 of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch or under directed action * Funding shifted to 2.5 years with $100,000 in the first 18 months followed by another year of funding for $100,000 if the LEA or school advances on the clock * For more information about Accountability Pathway, please see the [Offered Services- Accountability Pathways](https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/infosheet_accountabilitypathways). |
| **Change**  **CDE Advisory List of Providers** | * Updated list of approved providers is now available at [CDE Advisory List of Providers](https://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/cde-advisory-list-of-providers) website * Approved providers were given the option to identify expertise areas to help give schools and districts additional information. In October 2023, the CDE Advisory List of Providers will be updated to include field-validated expertise areas for providers. |
| **New**  **Offered Service- Rigorous Action through Redesign** | * New offered service aligning to early action * Eligibility- Schools in Year 2 or 3 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround; or CS Year 3 or more lowest 5% or low grad rate * Funding up to $20,000 for Year 1 launch and $100,000 per year for Years 2 and 3 * For more information about this new route, please see the [Offered Services- Rigorous Action through Redesign](https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/infosheet_rigorousactionthroughredesign). |
| **Discontinued**  **EASI Routes & Services** | * Offered Services- Continuation- discontinued * Exploration Supports- Early Literacy Instructional Program- CDE staff currently not able to provide diagnostic review |