

# What's New to EASI 2024?

## Empowering Action for School Improvement



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

### Overview

The Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) grant is entering Cohort 8 in 2024 and has approximately \$16.5 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.

Grant Timelines	Date
EASI Grant Application opens	Late September 2024
EASI Kick-Off	October 16, 2024- 2:30-4:00pm
EASI Office Hours- In depth support and details for those interested in COMTSS and District Designed & Led routes	November 2024
EASI Grant Application Closes	<b>December 4, 2024 at 4:00 pm</b>
EASI Grant- Review period	December-January
Award notifications	no later than January 31, 2025
Post-award- Grant Management training and overview	February 2025

### Key Changes to EASI 2024

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 2024 grant cycle.

Key Change	Description & Details
<b>Change - EASI Cohort 8 in GAINS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications and budgets will be managed in the new GAINS system</li><li>• School and district users should connect with their district's Local Access Manager (LAM) to get access, if needed</li><li>• Applications may be filled out by school or district staff, but all must be approved by the LEA Fiscal Representative and LEA Authorized Representative by the deadline to be considered complete and on time</li><li>• All details of the grant management process including supporting documentation uploads, budgets, and request for funds will occur in the GAINS system</li><li>• Charter schools may request access through the submission of GAINS <a href="#">Charter School Access Form</a></li><li>• For more information about GAINS (training, log-in, FAQs), please visit the <a href="#">Colorado Grants Administration Implementation &amp; Navigation System (GAINS)</a>.</li></ul>



Key Change	Description & Details
<p><b>Change -</b>  <b>EASI 2024 Eligibility &amp; Prioritization</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Preliminary eligibility and prioritization will be released, but may change as the result of the Request to Reconsider process or the addition of ESSA K-2 identifications</li> <li>● Bonus points have been adjusted and now include points for schools that have not previously received EASI funding and for schools with both an ESSA and state identification</li> <li>● For district-level supports, districts with high concentrations of identified schools will also receive a bonus point for the district-level support.</li> <li>● For more information, please see <a href="#">EASI 2024 Eligibility &amp; Prioritization</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Change -</b>  <b>District Designed &amp; Led</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● District Designed &amp; Led (DDL) now has two new revamped options- Improvement Support and Major Improvement Strategy</li> <li>● DDL-Improvement Support provides districts with a demonstrated need and clear plan additional funds to continue improvement efforts</li> <li>● DDL-Major Improvement Strategy focuses improvement efforts on the implementation of one of <a href="#">CDE's Major Improvement Strategy Guides</a>. In a shift from prior DDL prerequisites, grantees may demonstrate the need in more ways including S-CAP reviews, internal district conducted reviews, or through a demonstrated data trend aligned to the selected improvement strategy</li> <li>● For more information about District Designed and Led options, please see the <a href="#">District Designed &amp; Led webpage and information sheets</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Change -</b>  <b>CDE Advisory List of Providers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">CDE Advisory List of Providers</a> has been updated for 2024-25</li> <li>● Adjustments to service areas occurred in the 2024-25 RFI cycle                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ School and district management partners was revamped and now referred to as Accountability Pathway Partners</li> <li>○ Improvement Implementation Support was combined from school and district to a single service area</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Field-validated expertise areas now include more providers who participated in the optional process</li> </ul>
<p><b>New -</b>  <b>Other Services-                      School Transitions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● New EASI service offered to support the transition of students, staff, and families in an upcoming school closure or consolidation</li> <li>● Funds are provided to support transition activities aligned a focus core component from the Family, School, Community Partnership Strategy Guide 2.0</li> <li>● This is a short-term grant support from time of award through 09/30/2025 (less than 1 year). Funds support the end of the school year and beginning of the school year transition support activities.</li> <li>● Funding up to \$50,000 per school closure</li> <li>● For more information about this new route, please see the <a href="#">Other Services-                      School Transitions webpage</a>.</li> </ul>