

EXPLORATION SUPPORTS

District Strategic Planning



COLORADO
Department of Education

EASI Route: Exploration Supports District Strategic Planning

Introduction

The District Strategic Planning option is ideal for districts who are seeking to strengthen **district systems** that are necessary to support sustainable school improvement in one or more identified schools. These district systems may include: Talent Management, Instructional Infrastructure, Turnaround Leadership development, and/or Culture and Climate. District Strategic planning EASI grantees should focus on strategic planning related to one or more of these systems and districts should work with a CDE approved external provider ([see approved list here](#)).

District Strategic Planning include funding for working with a CDE-approved external provider and for completing the following activities:

1. Systems review and diagnostic activities
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. Prioritization and improvement planning
4. Early implementation

Eligible Applicant and Prioritization

Eligibility. Applicants must be:

- Districts who have one or more schools that are identified for Comprehensive Support (CS), Targeted Support (TS), or Additional Targeted (Additional TS) through ESSA or received a rating of Priority Improvement or Turnaround in the most recent rating. Schools on watch will also be eligible.

Prioritization. In the event that not all EASI proposals can be funded, proposals that meet grant expectations will be funded in the order of the EASI school-level prioritization list. Schools with the highest number of prioritization points will be funded first.

Allowable Use of Funds

The duration of the services within the Exploration route is January 2024 – June 30, 2025. Each participating district will receive an award of \$80,000-\$150,000 depending on district size, identification status, and number of schools identified for improvement. See the Exploration information sheet for additional details and funding amounts. An LEA/school may use the information obtained through the review and improvement planning process to develop an application for additional funds in the District Design and Led route in a subsequent EASI application.

Funding for this opportunity should be used for:

- Costs associated with hiring an approved external provider to facilitate district strategic planning activities outlined above
- Costs associated with stakeholder engagement (stipends, translation, etc)
- Costs associated with development and/or promotion of a strategic plan

For More Information, Contact:

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- Costs associated with early implementation of the plan activities

Funds from this opportunity must be used to **supplement and not supplant** any federal, state, and local funds currently being used to provide activities. Each year, funds should be obligated by June 30 and schools are able to request reimbursement on federal funds through September 30. A district/school may carry funds forward within the grant duration years. However, this amount should be reasonable and based on the school's grant and/or improvement plan and approval must be obtained. Note: At the end of participation in the grant period, any non-requested federal funds will be rescinded by CDE and any unspent state funds should be returned to CDE.

Important Program Dates (note: planning timelines are approximate)

January	Award notifications
January - May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts select and develop contracts with external providers • Diagnostic kickoff and webinar
May-December	Strategic planning (systems review, stakeholder engagement, prioritization and planning)
October	UIP due for LEAs/schools for public posting and CDE review of plan for documentation of grant requirements
November/December	Submit revisions to the original budget for early implementation funds/carryover (if applicable)
January-June	Early implementation of plan activities
June 30, 2025	Funds must be expended.
Ongoing	Submit any revisions to the original budget for approval.

Evaluation and Reporting

Districts receiving funds under this grant opportunity are required to:

- Incorporate findings into their Unified Improvement Planning Process
- Submit the Annual Financial Report (AFR) to CDE

Program Assurances

Districts receiving funds under this grant opportunity are required to the following in addition to assurances in the EASI application:

- Use the findings of the Diagnostic Review to inform the comprehensive needs assessment of the school's improvement plan and include selected strategy(s) in the Unified Improvement Plan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Colorado Department of Education's EASI Website
www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication