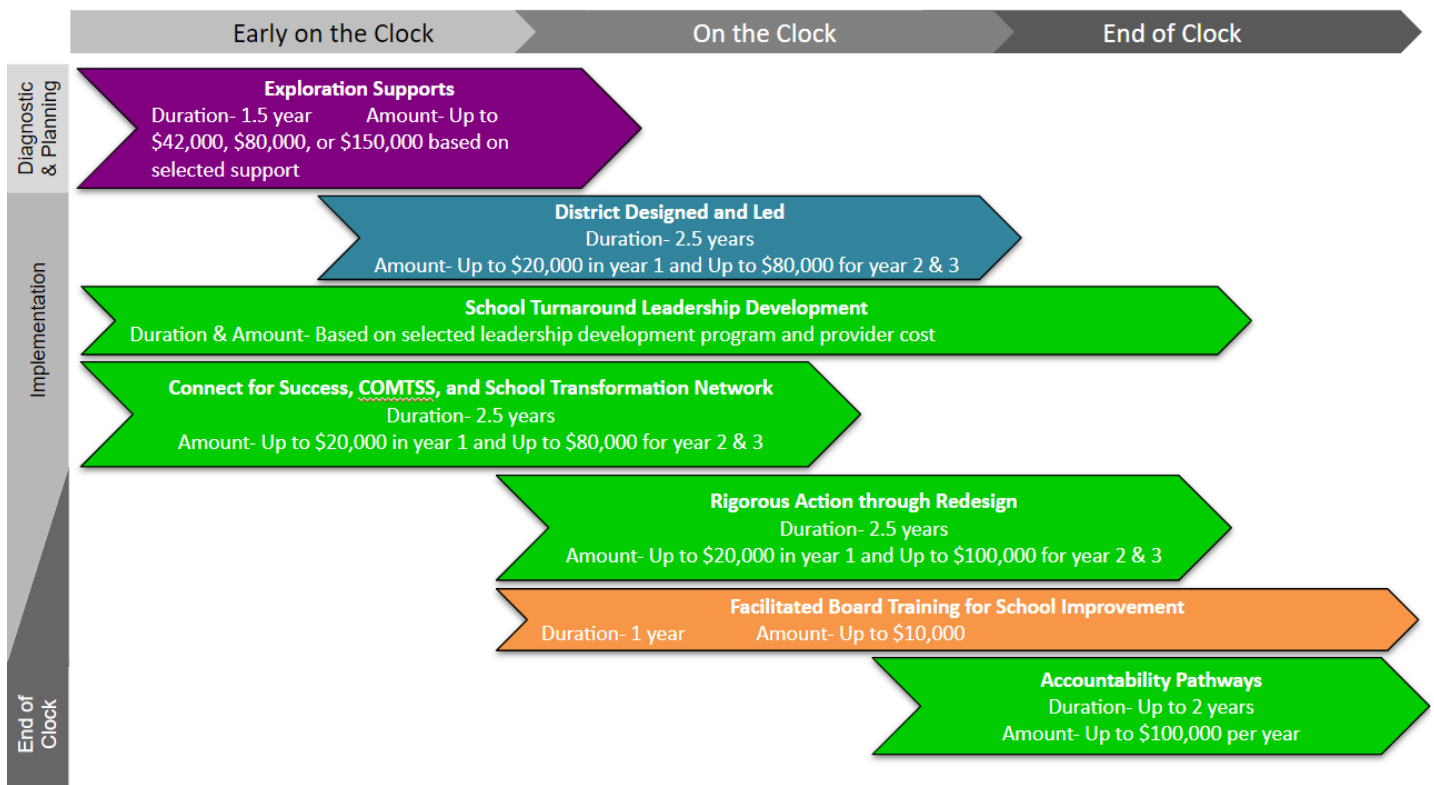


EASI Routes and Supports Available



Services and Funding Opportunities	ESSA Identified Only	ESSA and State Clock	State Clock Only
Exploration Supports Route			
Exploration Activities (i.e., diagnostic review, community engagement, improvement planning)	Yes	Yes	Yes
District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route			
District Designed and Led	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offered Services Route			
Accountability Pathways	No	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School or District in Year 4 of 5 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround or a school that has action directed by State Board of Education 	No	Yes	Yes
Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (COMTSS)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connect for Success	Yes	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current Transformation Network 	Yes	Yes	Yes
School Turnaround Leadership Development (both general and SPED)	Yes	Yes	Yes
School Transformation Network	Yes	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current Connect for Success 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rigorous Action through Redesign	Yes	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School in Year 2 or 3 Priority Improvement or Turnaround or Year 3 or more of Comprehensive Supports (CS) Lowest 5% or Low Graduation rate 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other Services			
Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement	No	Yes	Yes

EASI Application Processes and Timeline

End of September 2023	EASI Application Available
Thursday, October 19, 2023	Virtual EASI Fair
Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Applications due to CDE by 11:59 pm
December 7, 2023- January 31, 2024	Review of Applications
January 31, 2024	Applicants will be notified of application status.
February 2024	LEAs receiving grants will work with CDE to finalize grant activities, budget, and implementation timeline.

Resources in this packet

- [EASI Routes](#): Highlights and Fit Considerations: *Start here for an overall description of each route and things to consider as you're deciding which will fit your needs.*
- [EASI Route Menu of Supports](#): *More detailed information about each route, including specific eligibility, duration, funding amounts.*
- [EASI Route Contacts](#)
- Key Resource Links:
 - [Fact Sheets for each EASI Route](#)
 - [CDE-approved External Providers](#)
 - [Prioritization Criteria and List](#)

EASI Routes: Highlights and Fit Considerations

EASI Service	Highlights	Good Fit Considerations
Exploration Services (Diagnostic and Planning Supports)		
School Exploration Services		
School Holistic Review and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holistic review of school systems aligned to the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement - Schools select a CDE approved external provider to facilitate review and planning processes - Stakeholder engagement, planning, early implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newly identified schools or schools that have never received a diagnostic - Schools that may need an external partner in diagnosing and prioritizing needs and strategies
Specialized School Review and Planning: Language Learner Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CDE facilitated diagnostic review and planning support - Stakeholder engagement, planning, early implementation funds - CDE support for initial implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TS or ATS schools identified for ML student performance - Schools serving high numbers of ML students
Specialized School Review and Planning: AEC and Online schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CDE facilitated diagnostic review and planning support - Stakeholder engagement, planning, early implementation funds - CDE support for initial implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AEC or online schools identified for CS Low Graduation and/or Priority Improvement or Turnaround
District Exploration Services		
District Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of district systems necessary to support school improvement, prioritization, and strategic planning - Districts select a CDE approved external provider to facilitate review and planning processes - Stakeholder engagement, planning, early implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Districts with more than one identified school who need to analyze, prioritize, and create a plan to strengthen one or more district systems needed for sustainable school improvement - Districts with a district rating of Priority Improvement or Turnaround
Specialized District Review and Planning: Language Learner Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CDE facilitated diagnostic review and planning support - Stakeholder engagement, planning, early implementation - CDE support for initial implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Districts with significant number of ML students - Districts with multiple schools identified for ML student performance
Offered Services (Implementation Supports)		
Connect for Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 1 CDE diagnostic and planning support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools wishing to learn from other high achieving school

EASI Service	Highlights	Good Fit Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitated visits to high achieving schools - Ongoing on-site coaching and progress monitoring - Cohort-based professional learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visits - Schools work with CDE coach on implementation based on school plan - Not a fit for schools in Transformation Network late on clock, AEC or online schools
Transformation Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 1 CDE diagnostic and planning support - Ongoing on-site coaching and progress monitoring - Cohort-based professional learning - Strong alignment to the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools seeking structured coaching and support in improving systems and practices aligned to the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement - Schools work with CDE coach on implementation based on school plan and Four Domain framework - Not a good fit for schools with new leader, Connect for Success, or online schools
School Turnaround Leadership Development (STLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must work with an approved CDE STLD provider - Two focus areas: Holistic turnaround leadership and Leadership for Students with Disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Districts or schools with new leaders and/or building a turnaround leadership bench - Schools identified as TS or ATS for students with disabilities - Schools have autonomy on implementation and work directly with external provider
Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (COMTSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District-level teams focus on building district MTSS systems - Includes significant technical assistance and training from CDE - EASI grant provides additional implementation funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Districts seeking to build comprehensive MTSS systems as primary improvement lever - Requires district leadership participation - Approved districts work closely with CDE staff on implementation using CDE framework(s)
Rigorous Action through Redesign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District selects a CDE approved external provider to facilitate school redesign - School redesign does not necessarily mean a school is required to consider or adopt a new school model, but that may be an outcome for some schools - Includes comprehensive review of existing school systems and structures by a representative school-design team - Redesign efforts may align and assist with plans for Early Action proposal for state accountability or “more rigorous action” for CS Year 3+ schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not a good fit for schools who are recent recipients of Connect for Success or Transformation Network - Good fit for schools in Year 2 of 3 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround; Schools in Year 3 or more of Comprehensive Supports lowest 5% or low graduation rate - Schools that have the capacity to develop a school design team representative of key stakeholder groups

EASI Service	Highlights	Good Fit Considerations
District Designed and Led (Implementation Support)		
District Designed and Led (DDL) Improvement Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires a prior external diagnostic and improvement plan - Funding and support for an existing improvement plan utilizing evidence-based interventions (EBI) - May be school-specific or build district supports for multiple identified schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great deal of autonomy in implementation - Requires existing district capacity to implement and/or working with an external provider to build capacity to implement - CDE staff provide limited support through implementation check-ins
Other Services (Implementation Support/End-of-the Clock)		
Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District board training in good governance principles and practices and board levers for school improvement - Utilizes training material from Center for School Turnaround 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Districts with significant numbers of new board members - Districts with a significant number of identified schools and/or a district level rating of Priority Improvement or Turnaround - Districts with schools late on clock or subject to a State Board order <p>Note: Charter school boards should consider working with a provider who specializes in charter school governance</p>
CDE-Offered Services (End-of-Clock Supports)		
Accountability Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding to support schools or districts in exploring available state end-of-clock pathways and doing initial planning and/or implementation of State Board ordered Pathways Plan - Schools or districts receiving this grant are encouraged to work with an approved external provider on pathways planning, if appropriate to the school/district context - Schools or districts receiving this grant are encouraged to work with an approved external partner to support implementation, if appropriate to the school/district context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools or districts in at the end of the clock in Year 4+ - Schools or districts with an approved Pathways Plan and a State Board order in place

EASI Menu of Supports

The Menu of Supports is a summary of the services offered in the EASI application. For more detailed information regarding each service, refer to the information sheets available on the EASI website.

EXPLORATION SUPPORTS				
LEAs interested in funds and/or services to conduct a review of key systems (district or school), stakeholder engagement, improvement planning, and initial implementation. Exploration support activities are a precursor to applying for full implementation grants (e.g. District Designed and Led).				
Support	Description	Eligibility	Duration	Available Funds
<p><u>School Holistic Reviews (external provider)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holistic Review - All holistic reviews include funding for all the required activities listed in the description column <p>OR</p> <p><u>School Specialized reviews (CDE facilitates)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AEC and Online Review - Language Learner Partnership (formerly known as ELD) Review - All specialized reviews include funding for all the required activities listed in the description column 	<p>The components of the Exploration route assist LEAs in identifying areas of strength and need (External Diagnostic Review), engaging a variety of stakeholders in improvement conversations (Stakeholder Engagement), and building a plan centered around those prioritized needs (Improvement Planning).</p> <p><u>School Diagnostic Reviews</u></p> <p>External reviews are an important component in helping a school prepare for rapid, effective turnaround work. The types of available reviews include the traditional holistic diagnostic review that looks at the comprehensive school system, as well as specialized reviews for schools that want a more detailed look at programming.</p> <p><u>Stakeholder Engagement</u></p> <p>State and federal expectations highlight the importance of stakeholder engagement (e.g., building leadership, teachers, families, community members, local board members) throughout the school improvement process.</p> <p><u>Improvement Planning</u></p> <p>The improvement planning component is intended to build upon the diagnostic review and stakeholder engagement work.</p> <p><u>Early Implementation</u></p> <p>Upon completion of EASI Exploration work, the school may begin some early implementation of strategies and activities identified during the diagnostic and improvement planning work.</p>	<p>LEAs with schools identified for improvement under ESSA (i.e., Comprehensive, Targeted, Additional Targeted) and/or schools with a State identification of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, or On Watch</p>	<p>1.5 Years</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Specialized Reviews Total Grant (CDE facilitates)</u> Up to \$42,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Holistic Reviews Total Grant (External provider facilitates)</u> Up to \$80,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>See Exploration Route Fact Sheet for recommended funds allocations</i></p>

<p><u>District Specialized Reviews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language Learner Partnership (formerly known as ELD) – CDE facilitates - All specialized reviews include funding for all the required activities listed in the description column <p><u>District Strategic Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systems review - Stakeholder engagement - Improvement planning - Early implementation support 	<p><u>Stakeholder Engagement</u> State and federal expectations highlight the importance of stakeholder engagement (e.g., building leadership, teachers, families, community members, local board members) throughout the school improvement process.</p> <p><u>Improvement Planning</u> The improvement planning component is intended to build upon the specialized review and stakeholder engagement work.</p> <p><u>Early Implementation</u> Upon completion of EASI Exploration work, the school may begin some early implementation of strategies and activities identified during the diagnostic and improvement planning work.</p>		<p>1.5 Years</p>	<p><u>Specialized Reviews Total Grant (CDE facilitates)</u> Up to \$42,000</p> <p><u>District Strategic Planning Total Grant (External provider facilitates)</u> \$80,000- \$150,000 (depending on district size)</p> <p><i>See Exploration Route Fact Sheet for recommended funds allocations</i></p>
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DISTRICT DESIGNED AND LED IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES				
LEAs have a plan or are already implementing a plan that meets requirements for school(s) and is interested in pursuing grant funds to support activities.				
Support	Description	Eligibility	Duration	Available Funds
<p><u>District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies</u></p>	<p>Through the District Designed and Led (DDL), districts are encouraged to initiate and expand supports for schools in need of improvement. This route is a good fit for districts and schools that have invested in a comprehensive needs assessment, solid planning, and are ready for implementation or that have seen positive results and would like to expand programming. To be awarded funds under this application, proposals must demonstrate that the LEA and school(s) are building from established processes for the cross-cutting elements, including stakeholder engagement, improvement planning, use of</p>	<p>LEAs with schools identified for improvement under ESSA (i.e., Comprehensive, Targeted, Additional Targeted) and/or schools with a State identification of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, or On Watch</p>	<p>Up to 2.5 Years</p>	<p>Up to \$20,000 in year 1 Up to \$80,000 in year 2 Up to \$80,000 in year 3</p>

	<p>evidence-based interventions (EBI), evaluation, and reporting</p> <p>View the list of School Improvement Providers that might be able to assist with DDL Strategy implementation.</p>			
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OFFERED SERVICES

LEAs interested in applying for an existing CDE program or support aimed at improving school systems. Services may include a comprehensive approach that includes planning and implementation phases.

Support	Description	Eligibility	Duration	Available Funds
<p>Accountability Pathways</p>	<p>The Accountability Pathways is intended to support LEAs and schools with planning for and implementing the statutory options, or pathways, for persistently low-performing schools and LEAs. For those nearing the end of the Accountability Clock, the grant can support exploring the pathways, taking thoughtful action, and increasing readiness for discussions with the State Board of Education. For those who receive a directed action from the state board, the grant can support implementation of the approved pathway plan.</p>	<p>LEAs in Year 4 or 5 of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, or On Watch; or an LEA that has had an action directed by the State Board of Education</p> <p>or</p> <p>Schools in Year 4 or 5 of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, or On Watch; or a school that has had an action directed by the State Board of Education</p>	<p>Up to 2 Years</p> <p>*See fact sheet for details on grant duration</p>	<p>Up to \$100,000 in year 1 Up to \$100,000 in year 2</p> <p>LEAs applying on behalf of multiple schools (at least three schools) and/or the LEA itself may request no more than \$400,000 per year.</p>
<p>Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (COMTSS)</p>	<p>Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (COMTSS) is defined as a prevention-based framework of team-driven data-based problem solving for improving the outcomes of every student through family, school, and community partnering and a layered continuum of evidence-based practices applied at the classroom, school, LEA, region, and state level. Our mission is to shape, develop, and increase the collective capacity of schools and LEAs to implement and sustain a multi-tiered system of supports through a problem-solving culture that integrates data, practices, and systems to improve educational outcomes for every student.</p>	<p>LEAs with schools identified for improvement under ESSA (i.e., Comprehensive, Targeted, Additional Targeted) and/or with a State identification of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, or On Watch</p> <p>LEAs that commit to partnering with COMTSS staff to focus on systemic change through professional</p>	<p>Up to 2.5 Years</p>	<p>Up to \$20,000 in year 1 Up to \$80,000 in year 2 Up to \$80,000 in year 3</p>

		learning and capacity-building.		
<u>Connect for Success (CFS)</u>	<p>Connect for Success is an opportunity for schools identified for support and improvement to connect with and learn from some of Colorado’s High Achieving Schools (HAS) Schools that participate in the Connect for Success grant receive a diagnostic visit and a report that includes recommendations from a CDE team based on the findings of the HAS study, the opportunity to visit one of the High Achieving Schools and support from CDE in developing an action plan based on the team’s findings.</p>	<p>LEAs with schools identified for improvement under ESSA (i.e., Comprehensive, Targeted, Additional Targeted) and/or with a State identification of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch</p> <p>This grant opportunity is <u>not</u> a good fit for online schools or schools that currently have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability Pathways • Transformation Network • In year 4 or later on the state accountability clock 	Up to 2.5 Years	<p>Up to \$20,000 in year 1</p> <p>Up to \$80,000 in year 2</p> <p>Up to \$80,000 in year 3</p>
<u>School Turnaround Leadership Development Program (STLD)</u>	<p>The STLD Program offers the opportunity for Colorado educators to connect and partner with leadership development programs that are specifically focused on developing leaders to serve students in low-performing schools.</p> <p>There are two types of STLD programs: general turnaround leadership and leadership for systems and services for students with disabilities.</p>	<p>LEAs with schools identified for improvement under ESSA (i.e., Comprehensive, Targeted, Additional Targeted) and/or with a State identification of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch</p>	Varies, Based on Provider Programs	<p>Varies, Based on Provider Programs</p> <p>View the list of turnaround leadership development providers</p>
<u>School Transformation Network</u>	<p>The Colorado Transformation Network will accelerate student achievement for select schools through targeted support, resources, and flexibility. 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</p>	<p>LEAs with schools identified for improvement under ESSA (i.e., Comprehensive, Targeted, Additional Targeted) and/or with a State identification of Priority Improvement,</p>	Up to 2.5 Years	<p>Up to \$20,000 in year 1</p> <p>Up to \$80,000 in year 2</p> <p>Up to \$80,000 in year 3</p>

	<p>opportunities with a cohort of peer schools; and additional resources through supplemental grant funding. All participating Network schools will receive access to specialized professional development, on-site performance management sessions, quarterly Network events, and principal supervisor cohort gatherings.</p>	<p>Turnaround, or On Watch</p> <p>This grant opportunity is not a good fit for schools that currently have Connect for Success</p>		
<p><u>Rigorous Action through Redesign</u></p>	<p>The Rigorous Action through Redesign is intended to support LEAs and schools with deep school design intended to address systemic issues impacting school performance and create sustained improvement for schools in Years 2-3 on the State Accountability identification system or for schools reaching Years 3 or 4 on the Federal accountability identification system.</p> <p>School redesign, in the context of this grant, is a process facilitated by a CDE approved external partner that includes a deep comprehensive review of the existing school systems and structures (e.g. people, time, resources, school model, alignment to Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement) driven by a representative school-design team. Participating schools should expect to spend 12-18 months on comprehensive design work and an additional 12 months on early implementation and prototyping identified new school design priorities.</p>	<p>LEAs with schools identified for improvement under ESSA in Year 3 or more of Comprehensive Supports (CS) Lowest 5% of CS Low Graduation rate and/or with a State identification for Priority Improvement, Turnaround, or On Watch in Year 2 or 3</p>	<p>2.5 years</p>	<p>Up to \$20,000 in year 1 Up to \$100,000 in year 2 Up to \$100,000 in year 3</p>

OTHER SERVICES				
LEAs interested in building local board capacity to support school improvement				
Support	Description	Eligibility	Duration	Available Funds
<p><u>Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement</u></p>	<p>The primary objectives of the program include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) increased understanding of effective governance practices and board member roles and responsibilities, 2) increased board member understanding and support of district improvement efforts, and 3) a developed action plan for improving academic outcomes. <p>The program’s theory is that participation in the training will lead to improved student academic performance over time as measured by Colorado’s educational accountability system.</p>	<p>Local boards and superintendents that (a) have schools identified through state accountability measures (i.e., Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch) and (b) are interested in strengthening governing practices for stronger school improvement.</p>	<p>One Year</p>	<p>Up to \$10,000 per School Board</p>

EASI Route Information Sheets

Exploration Supports

- [Diagnostic Review & Planning for AECs and Online Schools](#)
- [District Strategic Planning](#)
- [Language Learner Partnership](#)

District Designed and Led (DDL)

Other Services

- [Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement](#)

Offered Services

- [Accountability Pathways](#)
- [Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports \(COMTSS\)](#)
- [Connect for Success \(CFS\)](#)
- [School Turnaround Leadership Development \(STLD\)](#)
- [School Transformation Network](#)
- [Rigorous Action through Redesign](#)

EASI Route Contacts

General Application Questions	Laura Meushaw Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us Lindsay Cox Cox_L@cde.state.co.us
Online Application Technical Assistance	Grants Program Administration CompetitiveGrants@cde.state.co.us
Budget Questions	Sondra Vela Vela_S@cde.state.co.us
For District-Specific Questions	Contact the CDE District Support Lead assigned to the district.
Exploration Supports Route	
Exploration Activities (Diagnostic Review, Community Engagement, Improvement Planning)	Lauren Hesse Hesse_L@cde.state.co.us
District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route	
District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies	Contact your assigned District Support Lead for planning tailored to your local context. For route-specific questions contact Lindsay Cox Cox_L@cde.state.co.us
Offered Services Route	
Accountability Pathways	Andy Swanson Swanson_A@cde.state.co.us
Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (COMTSS)	Kristen Brown, PhD Brown_Kristen@cde.state.co.us
Connect for Success	Laura Meushaw Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us
School Turnaround Leadership Development	Lindsay Cox Cox_L@cde.state.co.us
School Transformation Network	Nicole Monet Monet_N@cde.state.co.us
Rigorous Action through Redesign	Andy Swanson Swanson_A@cde.state.co.us
Other Services	
Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement	Dan Jorgensen Jorgensen_D@cde.state.co.us

CDE-Approved External Providers

Many EASI routes provide funding to work with external partners who can add expertise and/or capacity to school improvement efforts. See the full list of providers, including any areas of specialization, and their application materials on the [CDE Advisory List of Providers website](#).

EASI Prioritization Process

When we are unable to fund all approvable applications, CDE uses a prioritization process to allocate EASI funds. For more information, see the [EASI 2023 Prioritization Overview](#) or check your school or district's [Eligibility & Prioritization Points](#).