



EASI Cohort 9 2025-26- What's New to EASI?

Overview

The Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) grant is entering Cohort 9 in 2025-26 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 Timeline

Activity	Date(s)
EASI Grant Application opens	Late September 2025
EASI Provider Kick-Off (registration link for providers)	October 15, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm
EASI Cohort 9 Kick-Off (registration link for eligible grantees)	October 22, 2025 2:30pm-4:00pm
EASI Office Hours- District Designed & Led (registration link for interested grantees)	October 29, 2025 12:00pm- 1:00pm
EASI Grant Application Closes	December 3, 2025 at 4:00 pm
EASI Grant- Review period	December-January
Award notifications	January 30, 2026
Post-award revisions	February 13, 2026

Key Changes to EASI Cohort 9

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 2025-26 grant cycle.

Key Change	Description & Details
Change Funding Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploration Supports Language Learner Partnership at the district level increased to \$55,000• School Transformation Network shifted to \$60,000 in Year 1, \$60,000 in Year 2, and \$60,000 in Year 3 for the same total award amount• School Turnaround Leadership Development added a maximum award cap of \$150,000 per site• Accountability Pathways reduced from \$100,000 to \$80,000 per year at the school level

<p>Change COMTSS and District Designed & Led</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Multi-tiered System of Supports shifted from COMTSS as a standalone support to an option under District Designed & Led Major Improvement Strategy offering • Districts may opt to receive support from the COMTSS team
<p>Change CDE Advisory List of Providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDE Advisory List of Providers has been updated for 2025-26 • The 2025-26 RFI cycle was a full review cycle meaning all providers were required to reapply for service areas
<p>Discontinued Rigorous Action through Redesign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigorous Action through Redesign has been discontinued as a support • Current grantees from EASI Cohort 7 and EASI Cohort 8 will continue through the awarded grant cycle, but no new grantees will be awarded in EASI Cohort 9
<p>New Offered Services: Foundations for Accelerated Improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations for Accelerated Improvement is a new support for EASI Cohort 9 • School-level support specifically designed for state identified schools in Year 2 and Year 3 • ESSA identified schools are not eligible at this time • Funding for \$180,000 over three years, \$60,000 per year
<p>New Other Services: Targeted Professional Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Professional Learning is a new support offering short-term support for school staff to attend an approved targeted professional learning option (see CDE Advisory List of Providers) • Funding to cover costs of the selected professional learning option and related materials. Targeted Professional Learning options are focused on specific areas aligned to the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement and CDE's Strategic Plan (2025-28) Priorities • A school level support limited to one professional learning option per school • Greater availability of federal funding and ESSA identified schools with low prioritization are encouraged to apply
<p>New Accountability Pathways RFP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Colorado's 2025 regular legislative session, SB25-218 granted CDE the ability to contract with a public or private entity to provide permissible grant uses to multiple school districts or charter schools eligible for the state EASI grant funding. With this new option, CDE plans to conduct a request for proposals (RFP) to support schools otherwise eligible for Accountability Pathways funding • Additional support offered through the contracted services resulting from the RFP will offset the decrease in maximum award amount per school for Accountability Pathways • Expected to offer services to eligible schools and districts in addition to EASI grant funds starting in 2026-27