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# Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI)

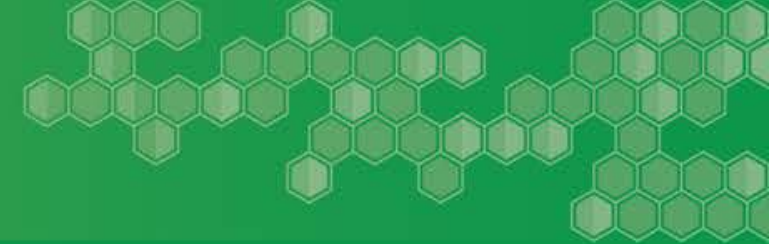
October 20, 2021

# EASI Overview Agenda

- Intent of EASI
- Available Funding
- Eligibility for EASI
- Overview of the routes/supports



# Intent of EASI



To better leverage  
state and federal  
improvement funds



Streamline school  
improvement  
opportunities and  
resources into a  
single application,  
process, and  
timeline



Use a “needs-based  
approach” to award  
services and  
funding



Prioritize LEAs  
with high numbers  
or high percentages  
of low-performing  
schools



# Available Funds



## ESSA

- Approximately \$8.5 million in available funding



## School Transformation Grant

- Approximately \$3 million in available funding



## Funding Dependent

- The amount of funding an LEA may apply for is dependent on the chosen route(s).

# Eligible Schools

- Schools and districts with a Priority Improvement, Turnaround or On Watch Plan type
- Schools identified as Targeted Support (TS), Additional Targeted Support (A-TS), and Comprehensive Supports (CS) Low-graduation Rate and Lowest 5%

*Note: A single application is to be completed by an LEA on behalf of any of its eligible schools.*

*Note: A school can have multiple identifications at state and federal*



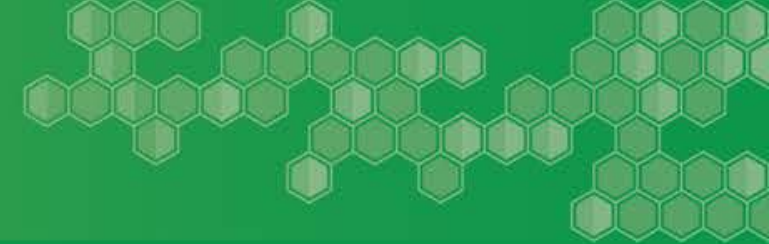
# EASI Prioritization



- If there are not enough funds to award all districts, CDE will use the 2021 Prioritization List.
- Please do not let the prioritization scores necessarily prevent a school/district from applying.
- Your Support Coordinator is available to help you learn more about school identification and EASI supports that might be a good fit for your school(s)



# EASI Overview



Services and Funding Opportunities	ESSA Identified Only	ESSA and State Clock	State Clock Only
<b>Exploration Supports Route</b>			
Exploration Activities (i.e., external diagnostic review, community engagement, improvement planning)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route</b>			
District Designed and Led	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Offered Services Route</b>			
<b>Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Year 3-5 on clock for planning; Beyond Year 5 (State Board of Education has directed action) for implementation</li></ul>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (CO-MTSS)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Connect for Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No current Turnaround Network</li></ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>School Turnaround Leadership Development</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>School Turnaround Network</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No current Connect for Success</li></ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Continuation of Offered Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eligible applicants are grantees from Connect for Success, Turnaround Network, and CO-MTSS that will be ending their funding in either June 30, 2021 or will end June 30, 2022 (Cohorts 2 and 3)</li></ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Piloted Services Route</b>			
<b>Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement Pilot</b>	No	Yes	Yes



# Exploration Supports

Good fit for district/schools that would benefit from:

- External Review
- Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement
- Thorough Improvement Planning





# Exploration- Holistic Review

Good fit for:

Schools that would benefit from an external eye taking a comprehensive look at the school system to identify areas for improvement.

Highlights:

- CDE trained partner conducts a school-based diagnostic review
- Provides a written report that identifies priorities, action steps, and available resources
- Includes options for schools identified for IEP students
- Up to \$25,000 per school

# Exploration- English Language Development Program Review (District or School Level)

Good fit for:

- Schools identified for TS or ATS: EL student group
- Districts whose DPF identifies the EL disaggregated group as missing academic or ELP growth/performance

Highlights:

- CDE representative guides team using ELD Program Review Rubric
- Team includes district and school administration, ELL and General Education teacher leaders
- Identify priorities, action steps, and available resources
- Up to \$10,000 per school/district

# Exploration: Focused Review on Early Literacy (District Level)

Good fit for:

Districts that would benefit from a review their current K-3 literacy instructional programs (core, supplemental, and/or intervention).

Highlights:

- Support is focused on building participant capacity to determine alignment of instructional programs with scientifically based reading research and evidence-based instructional practices.
- With support from a CDE literacy consultant, participants learn how to use CDE-provided tools to determine the relative strengths and weaknesses of a given program and gain a deeper understanding of effective early literacy instructional design and factors to consider when selecting an early literacy instructional program.
- Up to \$10,000 per school

# Exploration- Alternative Education Campus (AEC) and Online Review

Good fit for:

AECs and Online schools identified for improvement

Highlights:

- CDE representative conducts a school-based diagnostic review, shares recommendations and major areas on which to build
- Includes a facilitated improvement planning process
- Opportunity to visit other AECs and Online Schools that are experiencing success
- Up to \$10,000 per school

# Exploration- Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Good fit for: schools engaging in diagnostic review and school improvement or strategic planning processes.

## Highlights:

- Could be used to contract with a facilitator
- Could be used for costs associated with stakeholder engagement (e.g. childcare, translation, substitutes)
- Up to \$10,000 per school/district

# Exploration- Improvement Planning

Good fit for: schools that have had a diagnostic review and/or stakeholder engagement are ready to engage in the creation of an improvement plan

## Highlights:

- Assistance in gathering and organizing data
- Engaging in root cause analysis
- Could select an external partner or CDE to facilitate the planning process
- Up to \$2,000 to partner with CDE; Up to \$25,000 for external partner per school



# Exploration- Early Implementation Funds

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 (up to \$20,000).

## Highlights:

- costs for school leadership to attend related professional learning
- staff stipends and/or substitute pay to create time for job-embedded learning opportunities and/or time for collaboration
- leadership/teacher development

# Offered Services

Good fit for LEAs/schools interested in applying for an existing program or support aimed at improving school systems.

- Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation
- Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (CO-MTSS)
- Connect for Success
- Turnaround Leaders Development Program
- School Turnaround Network
- Continuation of Offered Services (CO-MTSS, CFS, Turnaround Network)



# Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation

Good fit for:

Districts and schools preparing for end of accountability clock or implementing action directed by State Board of Education

Highlights:

- Explore pathways and plan for end of clock hearing
- Implement plan and monitor progress after State Board of Education has directed action
- Work with CDE throughout process

# Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (CO-MTSS)

Good fit for:

Districts ready to examine systems and explore ways to build a Multi-Tiered System of Supports

Highlights:

- Work with CDE to examine existing system to build toward five essential components: shared leadership, data-based problem solving, family and community partnering, layered continuum of supports, and comprehensive screening and assessment system
- Can be paired with some other available services, but priorities and capacity need to be considered

# Connect for Success

Good fit for:

LEAs and schools (elementary, middle, high school and AECs) that show readiness and willingness to rethink current strategies

Highlights:

- Based upon High Achieving Schools (HAS) study
- Includes a diagnostic review, networking with other schools, visit to a HAS site and an implementation coach
- Does not work for schools later on the accountability clock or those involved in the Turnaround Network

# School Turnaround Leaders Development Program

Good fit for:

LEAs/schools with leaders (teachers, aspiring leaders, school and LEA leaders) ready to participate in leadership development programs tailored to serving students in low-performing schools.

Highlights

- Select from a list of identified leadership development programs.
- Can be paired with other available services

# School Turnaround Network

Good fit for:

Strong LEA support and buy-in, and school leadership demonstrates a mindset of learning and growth

Highlights:

- Organized around the Four Domains: Culture Shift, Instructional Transformation, Talent Development and Leadership
- Includes a diagnostic review, specialized professional development, “bright spot” school visits, networking with other schools and on-site performance management sessions with CDE
- This support and Connect for Success should not occur at the same school site

# Continuation of Offered Services

Good fit for:

- Only available to schools/sites that began Connect for Success, Turnaround Network or COMTSS in 2018-2019 or 2019-2020.
- Applicants must have less than 15% of funds from the original award remaining.
- Schools must be currently identified for improvement. For COMTSS, the district must have schools currently identified for Improvement.

Highlights:

- Additional funding for CFS, Turnaround, MTSS sites to implement one highly successful strategy.
- Up to \$40,000 per site

# District Designed and Led

Good fit for:

Districts and schools ready for implementation and have vision and infrastructure to support bold change

Highlights:

- Design your own initiative
- Build from previous external review, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and solid planning
- Identify evidence-based strategy with a fit for context
- Ability to expand previous DDL initiative (Initial/Continuation)

# Piloted Services - Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement

## Good fit for:

Local boards and superintendents that are interested in strengthening governing practices for stronger school improvement

## Highlights:

- The facilitated board training for school improvement pilot program was created through a partnership between the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). The pilot program combines effective governance practices along with best practices associated with school turnaround work.
- Up to \$10,000 per board of education for a total of five awards
- Funds may be used for resources and activities related to participation in the training, including: training facilitator fees, books and/or resources related to strengthening board practices and time for collaboration



# Timeline and Application

Wednesday, December 8, 2021	Applications due to CDE by 11:59 pm
December 8, 2021- January 21, 2022	Review of Applications
January 28, 2022	Applicants will be notified of application status.
February 2022	LEAs receiving grants will work with CDE to finalize grant activities, budget, and implementation timeline.

Each interested LEA must designate up to two application contacts and submit their names and contact information via [Smartsheet](#) form.

Once contact information has been submitted, the LEA application contact(s) will receive system access instructions.

# Application and Online System Overview

# EASI Online Application Agenda

- Accessing online application
- EASI application planning resources
- Overview of the online application, route selection, and budget templates

# EASI Website

**EASI Website:** <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication>

## Program Information and Resources:

- Application Route Information
- Online Application Access
- Application Resources
- Additional Technical Assistance

Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI)

**EASI Application 2021-2022**

Applications Due Wednesday, December 8, 2021, by 11:59 pm

**Request Access to the EASI Application**

Application Contacts will receive an email with instructions for accessing the EASI Application system.

**Log In to the EASI Application**

**Technical Assistance and Resources**

- [Explore EASI Routes](#)
- [View EASI Planning Documents and Forms](#)
- **NEW** [Attend the EASI Support Fair](#)
- [Learn about EASI Grant Funds](#)

See [Contacts Section](#) for general or budget-related questions, and application support.

**Prior Year EASI Applications and Resources**

- [Access Prior Applications](#)
- [View Revision Instructions](#)

# EASI Application Planning Document

The EASI Application Planning Document is intended:

- To provide detailed information about the program;
- To be a detailed document that contains a copy of all resources found on the EASI website; and
- To be used for planning application responses.

**Tip:** Use the planning document to develop your responses before entering them into the online application. You may also find it helpful to use a Word document to organize and edit your responses before “cutting and pasting” into the online application.

**Note:** Applications submitted outside of the online system will not be accepted.



# How to Use

- Determine eligibility and prioritization
- Review supports and identify areas of interest based on district/school needs
- Explore Funding Amounts
- Identify technical assistance needs
  - Program Contacts
- Review the questions that will be required in the online system
  - Use the planning document to develop your responses before entering them into the online application. You may also find it helpful to use a Word document to organize and edit your responses before copying into the online application.

# Application Access

- To access the online application, each interested LEA must designate an **Application Contact** and submit the name and contact information at the following [link](#).
- Once contact information has been submitted, access instructions will be emailed to the Application Contact. After you receive the instructions email, visit the EASI website and click on 'Forgot your password?' then follow email prompt to 'reset' password.



## Application for Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) - Password Reset Request

Submitted by: [Christensen\\_A@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Christensen_A@cde.state.co.us)

Your password reset request was received by the Colorado Department of Education. You may now reset the password for your Application for Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) account by clicking the link below:

Note: This link can only be used once and will lead you to a page where you can reset your password. This link will expire after two hours if not used.

[Reset Password](#)




You can access the Application for Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI) website at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/easiapp/>

- CDE Competitive Grants & Awards team



# Online Application

**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2021/2022 EASI Application

Logged in as: CompetitiveGrants@cde.state.co.us | [Log Out Page](#)

## 2021/2022 Application for Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI)

EASI Application Home

The application is to be completed by the Lead Education Agency (LEA) on behalf of any of its eligible schools. LEA activities in support of identified schools are also allowable. The application has been organized into four different routes: exploration supports, district designed and led, offered services and piloted services.

The EASI routes have different criteria and ways of awarding funds geared to a specific intent. Additional detail (e.g., eligibility criteria, prioritization guidelines, evaluation requirements, local commitments) for each program or opportunity are included in the [Menu of Supports Available for Schools Identified for Improvement \(PDF\)](#).

A summary of the routes and the individual services or opportunities can be found below.

**Exploration Supports**

LEA is interested in funds and/or services to explore a solution (e.g., diagnostic review, community engagement, improvement planning) for the identified school(s). This is a planning phase but also includes some implementation activities.

**Additional Information:**

- [Exploration Activities](#)

**District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies**

LEA has a plan or is already implementing a plan that meets requirements for school(s) and is interested in pursuing grant funds to support activities.

**Additional Information:**

- [District Designed and Led Improvement Requirements](#)

**Offered Services**

LEA is 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.

**Additional Information:**

- [Connect for Success](#)
- [School Turnaround Network](#)
- [Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation](#)
- [Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports](#)
- [School Turnaround Leaders Development Program](#)


**Piloted Services**

LEAs interested in applying for participation in a new piloted support aimed at improving school systems.

**Additional Information:**

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


[Enter Application](#)







# Route Selection

**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

2021/2022 EASI Application

Logged in as: CompetitiveGrants@cde.state.co.us | [Log Out Page](#)

[Application Menu](#)

## Route Selection for Schools

*Instructions: Use the following table to select routes for the LEA and each identified school(s). Schools that will not be participating in any routes should remain checked as "No Route Selected".*

For more information about school eligibility, see the "Program Options and Eligibility" matrix in the [application planning document \(PDF\)](#).

Note: All schools within the district are visible below. Before selecting school participation, please review the EASI eligibility and see the "Program Options and Eligibility" matrix in the [application planning document \(PDF\)](#).

**0890 - DENVER COUNTY 1**

2994 - 5280 High School

ESSA Designation: N/A  
State Plan Type: Turnaround Plan: Meets 95% Participation  
(Year 1)

☒ Exploration  
☐ Offered Services

**DISTRICT LEVEL**

☐ Exploration  
☒ District Designed  
☒ Piloted Services  
☐ Offered Services

0010 - Abraham Lincoln High School

ESSA Designation: Comprehensive Support and Improvement - Lowest 5 Percent  
State Plan Type: Priority Improvement Plan: Low Participation  
(Year 5)

☐ Exploration  
☒ Offered Services

# Application Navigation

2021/2022 EASI Application  
Colorado Department of Education

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Application Menu

## LEA Application Summary

Instructions: Provide a brief description (no more than 500 words) that addresses each of the questions below. These questions should be completed for any LEA applying for funds. This section must be completed before any funds or services are released.

### Questions

Provide context for the LEA's motivation for participating in the EASI program. Include:

- A description of current accountability status for the LEA and its system of supports, especially for schools identified under the state and federal systems.
- An overview of the challenges the LEA and the identified schools face. The description should be organized by the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement (PDF) (culture shift, instructional transformation, leadership and talent development).

Explain how, if awarded, the LEA will support its identified schools (i.e., C/S/T S/T S, Priority Improvement and/or Turnaround) schools to ensure that school improvement services, activities, and/or grants are on track and in alignment with their improvement plans and ultimately exit the federal and/or state designations and sustain improvements.

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Technical Assistance: Submit questions or requests for technical assistance to EAS@colorado.gov or call 1-800-440-3434

Navigation

- EASI Application Home
  - LEA Information
  - Route Selection for Schools
  - LEA Application Summary
- Exploration Supports Route:
  - Current Context
  - Selection
    - Diagnostic Review Selection - (N/A)
  - Exploration Grant Activities
  - Assurances
- District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route:
  - Selection
  - Initial District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies - (N/A)
  - Continuation of District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies - (N/A)
  - Assurances
- Offered Services Route:
  - Selection
  - Connect for Success - (N/A)
  - School Turnaround Network - (N/A)
  - Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation - (N/A)
  - Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (CO-MTSS) - (N/A)
  - School Turnaround Leaders Development Program - (N/A)
  - Continuation of Offered Services - (N/A)
- Piloted Services Route:
  - Selection
  - Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement Pilot - (N/A)
- General Assurances
- Requested Funds
- Budget Summary
- Supporting Documentation Uploads
- Summary and Submit

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# Work Plan and Budget Requests

**Questions**

Describe the process you used and why you selected the provider(s). This includes any requested exploration services (i.e., diagnostic review, community engagement, improvement planning, early implementation).

- If using a provider(s) not on CDE's preferred providers list, that provider will need to be vetted by the CDE. Instruct any provider you've chosen that is NOT currently on CDE's preferred providers list to reach out directly to Lauren Hesse at [hesse\\_l@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hesse_l@cde.state.co.us) to start the application process. A final decision on this application will not be made until the provider's application has been reviewed.

Describe the steps the LEA (parent) in this process.

**Work Plan and Budget Request**

Using the "Add Grant Activities" button below, create a work plan and budget request. For each grant activity (specifically including diagnostic review, stakeholder engagement, and improvement planning) in the work plan:

- Provide a school-level location contact, a description of each activity, start/end dates, and person(s) responsible for the activity.
- Input the amount requested, the associated program and object codes, and fiscal year. Input the salary position and FTE amount, if applicable.
- Ensure that activities are aligned with the allowable use of funds listed in the [Information Sheet](#).
- Ensure that costs are clearly tied to the grant activities and are calculated with detail in the "description of activity" field.

**Note:** Diagnostic Review, Stakeholder Engagement, and Improvement Planning funds must be spent by December 31, 2022. Early Implementation funds are available from July 1, 2022 - June 30-2023 once the site has submitted a revised UIP and a budget revision to the online EASI application based on feedback from a diagnostic review and meaningful stakeholder engagement. A single line may be added in the proposed budget as a placeholder for early implementation dollars.

ID Ref	Location	Description
No Budget Items Available		

**Add Grant Activities**

**Work Plan and Budget Request**

Location: - Select Location -

Description of Activity:

Fiscal Year: - Select Fiscal Year -

Program Code: - Select Program Code -

Object Code: - Select Object Code -

Salary Position: - Select Salary Position -

FTE:

Requested Amount: \$ .00

Clear Form Add Item

Close

**Note:** If you selected a provider external to CDE for Exploration Supports, upload a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (e.g., duration, expectations, deliverables, timeline) and/or a scope of work with the selected provider and/or facilitator that aligns with the budget request on the "Supporting Documentation Upload" page. If a finalized MOU is not available prior to award, a draft MOU or SOW is acceptable.

**Work Plan and Budget Request**

Using the "Add Grant Activities" button below, create a work plan and budget request. For each grant activity (specifically including diagnostic review, stakeholder engagement, and improvement planning) in the work plan:

- Provide a school-level location contact, a description of each activity, start/end dates, and person(s) responsible for the activity.
- Input the amount requested, the associated program and object codes, and fiscal year. Input the salary position and FTE amount, if applicable.
- Ensure that activities are aligned with the allowable use of funds listed in the [Information Sheet](#).
- Ensure that costs are clearly tied to the grant activities and are calculated with detail in the "description of activity" field.

**Note:** Diagnostic Review, Stakeholder Engagement, and Improvement Planning funds must be spent by December 31, 2022. Early Implementation funds are available from July 1, 2022 - June 30-2023 once the site has submitted a revised UIP and a budget revision to the online EASI application based on feedback from a diagnostic review and meaningful stakeholder engagement. A single line may be added in the proposed budget as a placeholder for early implementation dollars.

ID Ref	Location	Description of Activity	Fiscal Year	Program Code	Object Code	Salary Position	FTE	Requested Amount	Options
3691	2994 - 5280 High School	Holistic Review - contracting with a trained external diagnostic review provider	Year 1 (January 2022 - June 30, 2022)	ImprovementInstructionalServices	0300		0.00	15000.00	 
3692	2994 - 5280 High School	Costs related to the external review (e.g., external partner, stipends, subs)	Year 1 (January 2022 - June 30, 2022)	SupportProgram	0300		0.00	5000.00	 
								<b>Total:</b>	\$20,000.00

**Add Grant Activities**



# Exploration Supports Bundling

## Exploration Supports Route

### Selection

**Instructions:** For each school and/or LEA, select each of the exploration activities you are requesting. Select all requested activities (diagnostic review, community engagement, improvement planning, early implementation) that apply for each school/LEA.

#### Select An Option

2994 - 5280 High School

ESSA Designation: N/A

State Plan Type: Turnaround Plan: Meets 95% Participation

- ☒ Diagnostic Review
- ☒ Community Engagement Supports
- ☒ Improvement Planning Supports
- ☒ Early Implementation

To select all components for a comprehensive approach: [Click Here](#)

# District Designed and Led Changes

## District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route

### Selection

**Note:** The proposal can cover a single school, multiple schools, and/or the district. The scoring rubric is designed in a standards-based format.

This opportunity is a competitive process - to be considered for funding, applicants must score at least the required points out of the possible points available noted within the planning document (PDF). Applications that score below the required points may be asked to submit revisions that would bring the application up to an approvable level.

**Instructions:** Select one option for the LEA and/or each school. By choosing "initial", the LEA and/or school indicates it did not previously receive funding or services under this route. By choosing "expansion", the LEA and/or school indicates that it previously received funding or services under this route. Any LEA that was previously awarded an EASI District-Designed and Led grant is eligible to request additional funds to expand (e.g., adding new schools, adding more of the same activities approved in the previous year's application, adding new activities to supplement the initiative approved in the previous year's application) that initiative if it is showing success.

Select An Option

DISTRICT LEVEL

☐ Initial  
☐ Continuation

## District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route

### District Designed and Led - Initial

#### Major Improvement Strategy and Implementation

**Instructions:** Complete each of the questions below for all schools participating in the District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies. The proposal can cover a single school, multiple schools and/or the district. If multiple schools have similar findings in the needs assessment(s), then the proposal should note this and provide an overall description. If the needs assessment findings are vastly different, then the LEA will need to clearly describe each school.

Questions

No Strategies Listed

Add Major Improvement Strategy

Questions

Strategies	Options
ID Ref: 16 - Strategy Name: Major Improvement Strategy Name	
Summary:	
Summary of the Major Improvement Strategy	External Review
Participating Schools:	Evidence of External Review(s) and Need for this Proposal
Participating Schools	Contextual Fit:
Evidence Base:	Contextual Fit
Evidence Base of the Major Improvement Strategy	Documentation
	OPTIONAL - Supporting Documentation
	Performance Targets
	Performance Targets and Implementation Benchmarks

Add Major Improvement Strategy

# New: Continuation of Offered Services

Select An Option

5621 - Monarch Montessori

ESSA Designation: N/A  
State Plan Type: Priority Improvement Plan: Meets 95% Participation

☐ Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation  
☐ School Turnaround Leadership Development  
☐ Continuation of Offered Services

Select An Option

5621 - Monarch Montessori

ESSA Designation: N/A  
State Plan Type: Priority Improvement Plan: Meets 95% Participation

☒ Connect for Success  
☐ School Turnaround Network

Questions

Summarize the work that has been implemented as a result of the Connect for Success, Turnaround Network or the COMTS support.

Identify the need and evidence-based strategy that the school would like to continue with these funds. Include evidence of the strategy's success at the participating location. Evidence may include:

- Student data analysis (e.g., academic, behavior, attendance).
- Systems analysis (e.g., perception surveys, classroom observations).

Provide annual performance targets for participating schools that are expected as a result of continuing to implement the identified strategy. This should extend over the course of the grant period.

Describe the schedule and system for data collection and review of identified measures for both implementation and student outcomes.

Describe the plan for how the district will support sustainability of the knowledge and work after grant funding ends.

Work Plan and Budget Request

Using the "Add Grant Activities" button below, create a work plan and budget request. For each grant activity (specifically including diagnostic review, stakeholder engagement, and improvement planning) in the work plan:

- Provide a school-level location context, a description of each activity, start/end dates, and person(s) responsible for the activity.
- Input the amount requested, the associated program and object codes, and fiscal year. Input the salary position and FTE amount, if applicable.
- Ensure that activities are aligned with the allowable use of funds for each continued service.
- Ensure that costs are clearly tied to the grant activities and are calculated with detail in the "description of activity" field.

Note: Provide a budget for 2021-22 (remaining), 2022-23, and 2023-24 (2-1/2 years of total funding). Funds provided each year will be contingent on project implementation and adequate use of funds from previous years.

Activity	Location	Description of Activity	Fiscal Year	Program Code	Object Code	Salary Position	FTE	Requested Amount	Options
No Budget Items Available									
Total								\$0.00	

Add Grant Activities

# Budget Summary and Indirect Costs

## Budget Summary

Indirect Cost Rate: 10.5%

### Exploration Supports Route

Support Program (2100, 2200, 2600, 2700, 2800, 2900, and 3300)

Object Codes	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
0300 Purchased Services	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Program Totals:	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00

Improvement of Instructional Services (2210)

Object Codes	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
0300 Purchased Services	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Program Totals:	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00

Route Totals:	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
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### Application Request Total

	Year 1
All Route Total:	\$20,000.00
Requested Indirect Costs: ( Calculated Maximum: \$2,100.00 )	\$2,100.00 <a href="#">Adjust Value</a>
Request Total:	\$22,100.00

## Indirect Cost Override

*Instructions: Adjust the indirect cost rate if needed.*

Note: Applicants may choose to include an amount lower than the District Indirect Cost Rate but may not exceed the set indirect cost rate. If no indirect cost rate will be taken, please enter 0. If you are not adjusting the amount, please leave blank.

For additional questions, please contact Evan Davis at [Davis\\_E@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Davis_E@cde.state.co.us)

Calculated Indirect Costs: \$2,100.00

Adjusted Indirect Costs: \$

[Save](#)

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# Ready to Submit!

## Summary and Submit

**Thank you for completing the 2021/2022 Application for Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI).**

Applications will be reviewed based on the rubric associated with the route selected to ensure all required components listed in the [application planning document \(PDF\)](#) under "Selection Criteria and Evaluation Rubric" are addressed.

To be considered for participation in each route selected, LEAs and schools must meet all the requirements listed in each applicable scoring section. In cases where LEAs are applying for multiple schools, a single school with a weak application will not necessarily prevent awards or release of funds for other schools or the LEA.

Applications that do not meet all requirements may be asked to submit revisions that would bring the application to an approvable level. There is no guarantee that submitting an application will result in funding or funding at the requested level. All award decisions are final.



# Kick-Off for 2021 Grant Cycle

# Agenda

- Review of EASI prioritization
- Review of routes
- Timeline and application
- Directions for joining breakout rooms for more information



# Available Funds



## ESSA

- Approximately \$8.5 million in available funding



## School Transformation Grant

- Approximately \$3 million in available funding



## Funding Dependent

- The amount of funding an LEA may apply for is dependent on the chosen route(s).

# Eligible Schools



- Schools and districts with a Priority Improvement, Turnaround or On Watch Plan type
- Schools identified as Targeted Support (TS), Additional Targeted Support (A-TS), and Comprehensive Supports (CS) Low-graduation Rate and Lowest 5%
- If there are not enough funds to award all districts, CDE will use the 2021 Prioritization List.

*Note: A single application is to be completed by an LEA on behalf of any of its eligible schools.*

44 *Note: A school can have multiple identifications state and federal*





# History of EASI Prioritization

- Before 2020, prioritization was based solely on a school's identification
  - Hierarchy of federal and state identifications
  - If a school had two identifications, generally funded from the source associated with the higher priority identification
- Rationale for a “new” way of prioritizing schools for EASI
  - The prioritization used historically only considered one factor--the school's identification
  - Now that we have awarded 4 cohorts of EASI, there are many schools that have already received funding--and many that have not yet pursued/ had that opportunity
  - The EASI Design Team had a desire for a more nuanced prioritization system that reflects multiple values and factors
- CDE developed a proposal for prioritizing schools that reflected this wider set of values

The [prioritization list](#) and information video is posted on the CDE EASI web page





# EASI Prioritization Criteria 2021 Identification

Criteria	Prioritization Points
<b>Federal (ESSA) School Identifications</b>	
Comprehensive Support (CS) Lowest 5%	8
Comprehensive Support (CS) Low Graduation	8
Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATS) – identified in 2019-20	6
Targeted Support & Improvement (TS) – identified in 2019-20	6
Comprehensive Support (CS) Lowest 5% - Hold	3
Comprehensive Support (CS) Low Graduation - Hold	3
Previously identified (2017-18 or 2018-19) and Eligible for Supports - for TS or ATS	1
Any Federal identification – identified for Participation Only	1
<b>State (Accountability Clock/Performance Watch) School Identifications</b>	
Year 6+ of Priority Improvement or Turnaround	8
Year 5 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround	8
Year 4 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround	8
Year 3 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround	6
Year 2 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround	5
Year 1 of Priority Improvement or Turnaround	4
On Watch – any year	3
Hold – any year	3





# EASI Prioritization Criteria 2021 Bonus Points

If the school has a Federal AND a State identification, the school receives the point value for whichever identification has higher points (State or Federal), then receives 1 bonus point as per the information below

## Bonus Points

School was awarded EASI Exploration funds for 2019-20 but didn't receive subsequent funding for the school	4
School was awarded EASI Exploration funds for 2020-21	3
School has never received EASI funds*	3
Continuation of Offered Service (CFS, MTSS, Turnaround). Sites with funding that ended in ending their funding in either June 30, 2021 or will end June 30, 2022 (Cohort 2 and 3)	4
School has two identifications (state and federal)	1



# EASI Prioritization



- Please do not let the prioritization scores necessarily prevent a school/district from applying.
- Your Support Coordinator is available to help you learn more about school identification and EASI supports that might be a good fit for your school(s)



# EASI Routes

Services and Funding Opportunities	ESSA Identified Only	ESSA and State Clock	State Clock Only
<b>Exploration Supports Route</b>			
Exploration Activities (i.e., external diagnostic review, community engagement, improvement planning)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route</b>			
District Designed and Led	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Offered Services Route</b>			
<b>Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3-5 on clock for planning; Beyond Year 5 (State Board of Education has directed action) for implementation</li> </ul>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (CO-MTSS)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Connect for Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current Turnaround Network</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>School Turnaround Leadership Development</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>School Turnaround Network</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No current Connect for Success</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Continuation of Offered Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible applicants are grantees from Connect for Success, Turnaround Network, and CO-MTSS that will be ending their funding in either June 30, 2021 or will end June 30, 2022 (Cohorts 2 and 3)</li> </ul>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Piloted Services Route</b>			
<b>Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement Pilot</b>	No	Yes	Yes

# Exploration Route

- Bundle Option (DR, Planning, Stakeholder and Implementation Funds)
- Diagnostic Review Providers
  - Identified through Request for Information process
  - Highly recommend districts choose from list
- Implementation Funds
  - Up to \$20,000 available
  - September 2022 - June 2023
  - CDE team will work in collaboration to approve use of implementation funds and ensure there is an evidence base.

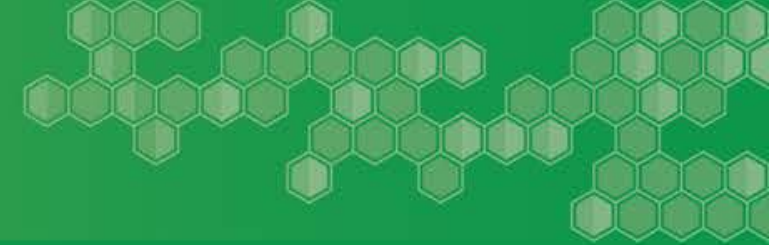


# Continuation of Offered Services

- **Connect for Success, Turnaround Network, EASI MTSS** sites may be eligible for additional funding to implement one highly successful strategy.
- **Eligible Schools**
  - Only available to schools/sites that began Connect for Success, Turnaround Network or COMTSS in 2018-2019 or 2019-2020.
  - Applicants must have less than 15% of funds from the original award remaining.
  - Schools must be **currently** identified for improvement. For COMTSS, the district must have schools currently identified for Improvement.
- **Timeline**
  - January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- **Funding**
  - Up to \$40,000 per site
  - Funding from this opportunity **must** be used for costs associated with implementing approved evidence-based strategies such as stipends, salaries and supplies.



# District Designed and Led (DDL)



## Changes to DDL for 2021

- Updated language from Expansion to Continuation
- Streamline questions into pop up
- Districts will be required to link each budget line item to an evidence based strategy

	INITIAL for LEAs new to DDL strategies	CONTINUATION for LEAs that want to expand Initial DDL strategies to new schools or continue to implement in previously awarded schools
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	LEAs that have eligible schools and completed an external diagnostic review may apply for District Designed and Led initiatives.	LEAs previously awarded an EASI District-Designed and Led Initial grant may request additional funds to expand that initiative to new school if it is showing success or continue to implement in the previously awarded schools
AVAILABLE FUNDS	<p>Up to \$25,000 for schools identified for TS or <u>ATS</u>;  Up to \$50,000 for schools identified for <u>CS</u>;  Up to \$50,000 for schools on the accountability clock.</p> <p>When developing budgets, keep in mind Year 1 is only 6 months (January – June). Year 2 and 3 are full school years.</p>	<p>Up to \$25,000 for schools identified for TS or ATS; Up to \$50,000 for schools identified for <u>CS</u>;  Up to \$50,000 for schools on the accountability clock.</p> <p>When developing budgets, keep in mind Year 1 is only 6 months (January – June). Year 2 and 3 are full school years.</p>
LENGTH OF AWARD	Up to 2 ½ years pending evidence that implementation is occurring as approved in the application. Subsequent year funding is dependent upon meeting reporting requirements and availability of funds.	For the addition of new schools or continuation in already awarded schools, the award may be up to 2 ½ years pending evidence that implementation is occurring as approved in the application. Continued funding is dependent upon meeting reporting requirements and availability of funds.
ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS	<p>Funding for this opportunity may be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A district-wide or targeted initiative that addresses the reasons schools were identified for improvement</li> <li>• Implementation of evidence-based interventions at each identified school that specifically addresses the reason for the school's identification</li> </ul>	<p>Funding for this opportunity may be used to expand strategies previously awarded by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing the implementation of DDL strategies in the already awarded schools</li> <li>• Adding additional schools identified for Improvement, using the same strategies</li> <li>• Expanding or replicating DDL strategies approved in the previous year's application</li> </ul> <p>Please note that any change that involves adding new activities or strategies should be applied for using the Initial DDL route. The Continuation route is only for continuing the same strategies in already awarded schools, adding new <u>schools</u> or replicating previously approved strategies.</p>

# Timeline and Application

Wednesday, December 8, 2021	Applications due to CDE by 11:59 pm
December 8, 2021- January 21, 2022	Review of Applications
January 28, 2022	Applicants will be notified of application status.
February 2022	LEAs receiving grants will work with CDE to finalize grant activities, budget, and implementation timeline.

Each interested LEA must designate up to two application contacts and submit their names and contact information via [Smartsheet](#) form.

Once contact information has been submitted, the LEA application contact(s) will receive system access instructions.



# Technical Assistance

## EASI Website

- EASI Application
- EASI Menu of Supports
- Short Videos and Fact Sheets
- Contacts
- External Provider Information

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication>

# Contacts

General Application Questions	Laura Meushaw   <a href="mailto:Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us">Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us</a>
Online Application Technical Assistance	Kim Burnham   <a href="mailto:Burnham_K@cde.state.co.us">Burnham_K@cde.state.co.us</a>
Budget Questions	Evan Davis   <a href="mailto:Davis_E@cde.state.co.us">Davis_E@cde.state.co.us</a>
For District-Specific Questions	Contact the <a href="#">CDE Support Coordinator</a> assigned to the district.
<b>Exploration Supports Route</b>	
Exploration Activities (Diagnostic Review, Community Engagement, Improvement Planning)	Lauren Hesse   <a href="mailto:Hesse_L@cde.state.co.us">Hesse_L@cde.state.co.us</a> Laura Meushaw   <a href="mailto:Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us">Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us</a>
<b>District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies Route</b>	
District Designed and Led Improvement Strategies	Laura Meushaw   <a href="mailto:Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us">Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us</a> [Contact your assigned <a href="#">Support Coordinator</a> for planning tailored to your local context.]
<b>Offered Services Route</b>	
Accountability Pathways Planning and Implementation	Lindsey Jaeckel   <a href="mailto:Jaeckel_L@cde.state.co.us">Jaeckel_L@cde.state.co.us</a>
Colorado Multi-Tiered System of Supports (CO-MTSS)	Kristen Brown, PhD   <a href="mailto:Brown_Kristen@cde.state.co.us">Brown_Kristen@cde.state.co.us</a>
Connect for Success	Laura Meushaw   <a href="mailto:Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us">Meushaw_L@cde.state.co.us</a>
School Turnaround Leadership Development	Carol Mehesy   <a href="mailto:Mehesy_c@cde.state.co.us">Mehesy_c@cde.state.co.us</a>
Turnaround Network	Nicole Monet   <a href="mailto:Monet_N@cde.state.co.us">Monet_N@cde.state.co.us</a>
Continuation of Offered Services	Laura Meushaw, Nicole Monet, or Kristen Brown ( <i>depending on the service to be continued</i> ).
<b>Piloted Services Route</b>	
Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement Pilot	Dan Jorgensen   <a href="mailto:Jorgensen_D@cde.state.co.us">Jorgensen_D@cde.state.co.us</a>