

Continuous School Improvement Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



What continuous school improvement support is offered to Delaware schools under ESSA?

All Delaware schools receive continuous improvement support from the state. Some schools with low student performance based on state measures may be identified as qualifying for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) or targeted support and improvement (TSI), which can provide additional program and funding support. Districts and charter schools will assist these schools in conducting their needs assessments, analyzing the data, and developing school-level improvement plans.

DOE will provide support and assistance to schools in the form of:

- Needs assessment assistance;
- Evidence-based interventions and strategies;
- Thought partnerships;
- Professional learning opportunities;
- Online resources; and
- Connections to experts, partners and networks.

Districts and charters are not required to use the DOE-identified tools and resources; however, locally developed templates must meet DOE approval and ESSA needs assessment, planning, and budgeting requirements.

What is the timeline for identifying schools that qualify for comprehensive or targeted support?

In November 2018, all schools will receive individual ratings. At this time, some schools that receive ratings of well-below expectations will also be identified as schools that qualify for additional support, based on the combination of measures outlined on page 1.

How do I view a school's rating?

School ratings will be posted on the Delaware School Profiles website in November 2018. Beginning December 2018, school ratings will be posted in an easier-to-read format for families and communities on the new Delaware School Report Card website. Visit <https://www.doe.k12.de.us> to access these sites and for more information.

How do the plans created for CSI and TSI differ?

Schools identified as qualifying for CSI must create plans outlining how they will improve low performance for the whole school. Schools identified as qualifying for TSI must create plans that focus on improving school performance for one or more subgroups. Plan details are outlined below:

CSI/TSI Plan Overview	CSI	TSI
Plan must be developed with stakeholders (including school leaders, teachers, & parents).	Yes	Yes
Plan is informed by student performance against DSSF	Yes	Yes
Plan includes evidence-based interventions	Yes	Yes
Plan includes a school-level needs assessment	Yes	
Plan includes a district-level needs assessment		
Plan addresses resource inequities	Yes	Yes
School, District, & DOE must approve plan	Yes	
Only District approves plan prior to implementation		Yes
Upon approval and implementation, DOE monitors & periodically reviews plan	Yes	
District monitors & reviews plan	Yes	Yes



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Continuous Improvement in Delaware

Delaware districts and charter schools operate under the belief that all schools must continue to focus on improving their support for all students – including those that exceed expectations – to best support all students. Delaware dedicates \$6 million annually to school improvement. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), schools may qualify for additional support based on specific measures (below).



Check out the amazing continuous improvement work Delaware districts and charters are doing to support their students. Connect with us:



What is ESSA?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a federal law that outlines how states can identify and support students in public schools. In August 2017, the U.S. Department of Education approved [Delaware's plan](#) for implementing ESSA-required assessments, accountability and support for districts and charter schools so they can continuously improve outcomes for all students.

i Learn more: [Understanding the Every Student Succeeds Act](#)

How are Delaware schools measured?



Delaware's education and community stakeholders designed the Delaware School Success Framework (DSSF) to measure how schools perform in key areas. This statewide system is designed to help the public understand the full spectrum of school performance. The DSSF also identifies

each school's needs and helps determine how to best support students in schools across the state.

The DSSF measures the following in each grade:

Measures	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
English language arts (ELA) and math proficiency				■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	
ELA and math growth				■	■	■	■	■	■				
Graduation rates (4-, 5- and 6-year)													■
English learner progress		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
On-track attendance		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Science and social studies proficiency					■	■		■	■		■	■	
College- and career-ready													■
On track in 9th grade										■			

These measures are mapped to an overall rating for each school:

- Exceeds Expectations – The school/district is exceeding the state's expectation for overall student performance.
- Meets Expectations – The school/district meets the state's expectation for overall student performance.
- Approaching Expectations – The school/district is moving toward the state's expectation for overall student performance.
- Well-Below Expectations – The school/district needs support to move toward the state's expectation for overall student performance.

Ratings will be posted publicly on [Delaware School Profiles](#) beginning November 2018 and on the Delaware Report Card (LINK) beginning December 2018.


 Learn more: [Delaware School Success Framework - En español](#)

 Learn More: [Delaware School Success Framework results released](#) (Nov. 7, 2018)

Which schools receive support?

In Delaware, all public district and charter schools receive continuous improvement support from the state in the form of resources, professional development, grant access and more. Some Title I and non-Title I schools with low student performance based on state measures may be identified as qualifying for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) or targeted support and improvement (TSI). These schools receive additional program and funding support as outlined below.

	Which schools need CSI or TSI support?	How will schools choose the right support for students?	What types of support will be provided?
Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)	Title I and non-Title I schools that are in the bottom 5% OR any public school with a graduation rate of 67% or less OR any TSI school that does not improve after three years.	Districts and charter schools must conduct a needs assessment to determine how to best support students, work in partnership with stakeholders, and develop and implement a school-level plan for improvement.	Schools that qualify as needing CSI will receive funding and additional support from the state, as identified through a needs assessment. DOE will serve as a thought partner throughout the process.
Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)	Any Title I or non-Title I school with a subgroup of students (i.e. students with disabilities, English learners) performing at or below the bottom 5% of schools.	Districts and charters must develop and implement a school-level plan for improvement in partnership with stakeholders. Districts and charters approve their plans and monitor implementation.	Schools that qualify as needing TSI will develop a school-level plan for improvement. DOE may serve as a thought partner and resource for support, which can include funding, program assistance and more.

 Learn more: [Continuous improvement support in Delaware schools - En español](#)