

Technical Assistance to SIP Campuses

Technical assistance is provided to Title I campuses identified for the Title I School Improvement Program (SIP) through the School Improvement Resource Center (SIRC) at Region XIII Education Service Center. SIRC is a statewide initiative, funded by TEA, which serves in an advisory capacity to schools in need of improvement that receive Title I supplemental SIP funds.

As campuses move through the school improvement process, SIRC provides technical assistance and resources to assist them in developing a strategic plan focused on areas in need of improvement. A representative from the SIRC office will be contacting school administrators to initiate the technical assistance determined by the campus's stage of school improvement.

Below is a basic description of the technical assistance provided to SIP campuses by SIRC:

SIP Introductory Meeting - (Stage 1 Campuses Entering SIP & Principals New to a Campus in Stages 1-5)

Following the release of AYP results, principals of campuses entering into School Improvement for the first time are required to attend a School Improvement Introductory Meeting at one of five locations around Texas in September 2011. Principals new to a campus continuing in SIP are also required to attend the Introductory Meeting. LEA administrators are **strongly encouraged** to attend with their principal.

Stage Specific Webinars - (Campuses Continuing in SIP)

Following the release of AYP results, principals of campuses continuing in the School Improvement Program are required to complete Stage Specific webinar sessions which review the SIP requirements, as well as, new program components. Principals who are new to a campus continuing in SIP are required to attend the SIP Introductory Meeting (described above) in place of these webinar sessions.

Texas School Improvement Conference - (All Stages)

The campus principal is required to attend the Texas School Improvement Conference (TSI) sponsored by SIRC. This conference in Austin is designed to assist schools through the school improvement process and features schools that have been successful in meeting AYP standards and exiting SIP. LEA Administrators with campuses in Stage 1-2 are **strongly encouraged** to attend and LEA Administrators with campuses in Stage 3 and above are required to attend with their principal. Campus staff members are encouraged to attend with the principal.

Professional Service Provider-Campus Administrator Mentor Program (PSP-CAM) - (Stage 1 Only)

Campus principals in Stage 1 are required to participate in the Campus Administrator Mentor Program (CAMP) and will receive on-site support, mentoring, and technical assistance from a SIRC approved Professional Service Provider specializing as a Campus Administrator Mentor (PSP-CAM). CAMP is provided by SIRC and the expense for the PSP-CAM is paid directly to SIRC from TEA. By applying for the SIP funding, the campus principal is agreeing to participate in the CAMP mentoring and for TEA to pay for the PSP-CAM services directly to SIRC.

Administrative mentoring and coaching are vital components to any job-embedded leadership development program. Experienced educators can help principals develop personal and professional skills necessary for effective leadership. PSP- CAMs are experienced educators and former administrators who will work closely with the principal to build a relationship of trust, to encourage individual capacity for leadership, and to target school improvement. The PSP-CAM also coordinates their work with the District person directly responsible for the academic performance of students on the SIP campus.

Professional Service Provider - Technical Assistance Providers Program (PSP-TAP) - (Stages 2 and above)

Stage 2 and above campuses in SIP are required to participate in the Technical Assistance Provider Program and will receive on-site support and technical assistance of a SIRC approved Professional Service Provider specializing as a Technical Assistance Provider for Stages 2-3 or for Stages 4 and Above. The PSP-TAP serves as a hands-on consultant working with campus administration and faculty to guide the school through the improvement process. The PSP-TAP also coordinates their work with the District person directly responsible for the academic performance of students on the SIP campus. The TAP Program is provided by SIRC and the expense for the PSP-TAP is paid directly to SIRC from TEA. By applying for the SIP funding, the campus principal is agreeing to participate in the TAP Program and for TEA to pay for the services directly to SIRC.

The PSP-TAP works to create a collaborative and positive school environment by developing increased leadership capacity in administrators, and by building content knowledge in teachers to establish a teaching-learning community. The PSP-TAP uses a broad knowledge of scientific and/or evidence based resources and materials to address the range of administrative, curricular, or instructional needs that might be present on the campus.

Supplemental Education Services (Stages 2 and above)

Title I campuses entering Stages 2-5 of improvement must offer Supplemental Education Services (SES). SIRC oversees the approval and renewal process for Supplemental Education Service providers. Technical support is provided to both districts, campuses, and providers working with SES. SIRC coordinates and provides training and information sessions on the statewide SES management system and the SES evaluation process.

Resources

SIRC supports campuses in School Improvement in many ways including the production of numerous resources. Principal Planning Guides related to the AYP indicators are provided to all principals along with a School Improvement Principal Guideline notebook (it is also provided electronically). SIRC has a website www.sirctexas.net with links to all the different programs described above as well as webinars and materials from previous workshops and conference presentations sorted by topics that support schools in improvement. SIRC provides professional development opportunities for campuses in various stages of improvement as well as co-sponsors trainings with other organizations. Other services may be purchased from ESC 13, or your regional ESC, in addition to those services supported by SIRC. All information regarding ESC 13 resources are available on SIRC's website.