

Technical Assistance to SIP Campuses

Technical assistance is provided to Title I campuses identified for the Title I School Improvement Program (SIP) through the network of regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) and the Texas Center for District and School Support (TCDSS) at Region XIII Education Service Center. TCDSS is a statewide initiative, funded by TEA, which serves in an advisory capacity to districts and schools in need of improvement.

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

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

Texas Accountability Intervention System (TAIS), Part 1: District Foundations (All Stages)

Following the release of AYP results, the district staff responsible for Title I SIP campuses, and all Professional Service Providers (PSPs) are required to attend a meeting at the regional ESC. The training is designed for district personnel to share with campus principals; however, school leaders may attend the meetings, if space allows.

Texas Accountability Intervention System (TAIS), Part 2: District Support Modules (Stage 1, Year 2 and above)

The TAIS Support Modules will be provided at designated ESCs by the TCDSS. The district personnel for Title I SIP campuses in Stage 1, Year 2 and above are required to attend and expected to disseminate the information to principals.

SIP Requirement Webinar (Stage 1, Year 1)

Following the release of AYP results, the district staff responsible for campuses new to the School Improvement Program are required to complete a webinar session which will review the SIP requirements, as well as, new program components.

Advancing Improvement in Education (AIE) Conference (Stage 1, Year 2 and above)

A district representative and the campus principal are required to attend the Advancing Improvement in Education (AIE) Conference sponsored by TCDSS. This conference in Austin is designed to assist schools and districts through the school improvement process and features schools that have been successful in meeting AYP standards and exiting SIP. The event takes place on October 17-18, with an optional pre-conference October 16.

Technical Assistance on SIP Requirements (Stage 1, Year 1)

For Stage 1, Year 1 campuses where all student groups score at or above 70% in reading mathematics, and attendance/graduation rate, districts can designate their SIP funds towards locally-identified improvement efforts. For Stage 1, Year 1 campuses with any student group scoring below 70% in reading mathematics, and attendance/graduation rate, funding will be provided to the district with the stipulation that 20% of the funds are directed to the regional ESC to support improvement efforts and compliance with Title I SIP requirements.

Professional Service Provider Program - (Stage 1, Year 2 and above)

Stage 1, Year 2 and above campuses in SIP are required to participate in the Professional Service Provider (PSP) Program and will receive on-site support and technical assistance from an approved Professional Service Provider. The PSP serves as a hands-on consultant working with campus administration and faculty to guide the school through the improvement process. The PSP also coordinates their work with the District person directly responsible for the academic performance of students on the SIP campus. The PSP Program is provided by TCDSS and the expense for the PSP is paid directly to TCDSS from TEA. By applying for the SIP funding, the campus principal is agreeing to participate in the PSP Program and for TEA to pay for the services directly to TCDSS.

The PSP 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 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). TCDSS oversees the approval and renewal process for Supplemental Education Service providers. Technical support is provided to districts, campuses, and providers working with SES. TCDSS coordinates and provides training and information sessions on the statewide SES management system and the SES evaluation process.

Resources

TCDSS supports SIP campuses in many ways, including the production of resources such as Principal Planning Guides related to AYP indicators. TCDSS also has a website, www.tcdss.net, with links to all the different programs described above, as well as webinars and materials from previous workshops and conference presentations. TCDSS provides professional development opportunities for campuses in various stages of improvement, as well as co-sponsors trainings with other organizations. Other services may be provided by regional ESCs, in addition to those services supported by TCDSS.