

1. Which campuses identified for federal school improvement can opt-out for 2021–22?

Comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) campuses will be allowed to opt-out of required submission interventions and engagement with the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Targeted support and improvement (TSI) and additional targeted support (ATS) campuses will be allowed to opt-out of interventions processes as well, continue improvement efforts at the local level with oversight and control as in the past or opt-in to applying for grant funds, required intervention submissions and Division of School Improvement support.

Timelines and procedures for opt-out will be developed and shared in early 2021.

2. Do districts have to opt out all identified campuses within a district, or can specific campuses opt-out and others opt-in?

Each campus identified for federal interventions will have the option to opt-in or opt-out of required submission interventions. Therefore, it would be possible for districts to have some campuses opt-in and some campuses opt-out.

3. What are the disadvantages of opt-out? It appears campuses will still have the label and lose funding; will they also have to continue with their intervention work? What are campuses opting-out of?

If a campus opts-out, they are opting out of required submission interventions, support from the Division of School Improvement, and eligibility to apply for and receive School Improvement and School Action grant funding.

4. For campuses that opt-out, they still retain the school improvement label for 2021-22, but with 2022 ratings will they be able to exit if they meet exit criteria?

Yes. Opting in or out of school improvement interventions and funding for 2021–22 does not impact exit timelines. Campuses that are eligible to exit based on August 2022 data will be removed from identification.

5. For the three-year ATS escalation to CSI, what are the consecutive years now? 2019, 2022, and 2023?

Yes.

6. For the TSI and ATS campuses only – they were each awarded a \$4,000 “Continuity” Grant. Is this going to be awarded again this year (2021)?

No, the Instructional continuity grant was a two-year grant provided to campuses labeled TSI. There is currently no plan to extend that grant.

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7. For campuses choosing to opt-out of school improvement interventions and funding, is escalation postponed for both CSI and ATS?

No. Opting out of 2021–22 school improvement interventions does not delay future requirements if a campus is identified as CSI or ATS for multiple years.

8. For campuses choosing to opt-in and put forth a good-faith effort, will there be consequences if they are unable to implement all portions of their TIP?

No. If a campus opts-in, they will engage in interventions and receive support from the Division of School Improvement as they implement their TIP to the extent possible. School Improvement is currently working on what the engagement and support will look like for school year 2021–22.

9. There was no specific mention of SANCTIONS for State Accountability. TEA previously rolled the sanctions for both State and Federal requirements into one document – and identified campuses that had an F or D rating, or a domain with an F or D rating – as having to provide Targeted Improvement Plans.

a. How will this impact 2021–22 intervention requirements for schools labeled D or F in 2018–19?

All districts and campuses will receive a not rated label and will not require the continuation of interventions from their 2019 state accountability rating. However, this should be seen as a pause in the issuance of A-F ratings and not a restart of consecutive years of low performance.

b. Will these requirements still be in place or is this also being suspended this year?

This will have no impact on the 2020–21 school year and will not be implemented until August 2021.

10. Will there be any other State Accountability consequences for campuses that choose to opt-out?

All districts and campuses will receive a not rated label and will not require the continuation of interventions from their 2019 state accountability rating. However, this should be seen as a pause in the issuance of A-F ratings and not a restart of consecutive years of low performance. If a campus was identified for both state and federal accountability, it would need to determine whether to opt-in or opt-out of federal interventions.

Please additional questions regarding school improvement, please contact the School Improvement Division at (512) 463-5226 or SIDivision@tea.texas.gov.