

Updated as of 4/2/20

1. What school improvement interventions will be required for the remainder of the school year?

TEA is currently focused on supporting districts and campuses across the state in what matters most right now - the health and safety of students, staff, families and school communities. Additionally, we are doing our best to help support instructional continuity for students across the state. We believe this is where our schools and districts should be spending their time as well.

Regarding interventions and submissions, we will be focusing on how districts and campuses can proactively prepare during the summer of 2020, in order to plan for a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year. We are delaying pending submissions for the remainder of this school year. We will be working on guidance and resources that will allow campuses and districts to reflect on the implementation of this year's Targeted Improvement Plans in a way that provides focus and a strong starting point for next school year's Targeted Improvement Plans.

2. Should we expect any communication from the School Improvement Division regarding required interventions at this time?

The most recent communication sent to districts and schools indicated that we were postponing conference calls regarding Targeted Improvement Plans through April 3rd.

However, given the circumstances and the impact of COVID-19, we want to allow our districts and campuses the time and space needed to support their school communities, and so we will not be reaching out to LEAs regarding required interventions during closure. Additionally, we will refrain from providing feedback on current intervention submissions at this time.

3. Do campuses still need to work with school improvement staff at the ESC? Do they still need to complete the Effective Schools Framework (ESF) diagnostic? Will ESF diagnostics that have been postponed or cancelled be rescheduled for next year?

We will not be conducting the remainder of the ESF diagnostics this year; instead, we will provide guidance and resources for districts and campuses to engage in a reflective and planning process at the end of this year and over the summer to create a strong Targeted Improvement Plan for next school year.

Additionally, we will reschedule all outstanding ESF Diagnostic visits for the Spring of 2021, to support long-term school improvement efforts for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

4. Due to all districts and campuses receiving a *Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster* for 2019-2020 in the state accountability system, what interventions will be required for the 2020-2021 school year?

Districts and campuses shall continue to implement interventions based on their 2019 state accountability ratings. The *Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster* rating will not impact previously

ordered sanctions and interventions therefore, all interventions carried out by districts and/or campuses in school year 2019-2020 will carry over and continue for school year 2020-2021. More guidance on specific intervention requirements will be released in subsequent guidance.

5. Can School Improvement Grants (given to districts with Comprehensive Support and Improvement campuses) be used to support instructional continuity, and if it can, does a district need to amend its School Improvement Grant to do so?

Districts are able to use the School Improvement Grant (SIG) on any expenditure tied to the Effective Schools Framework, and since Effective Schools Framework Essential Action 4.1 addresses curriculum and curricular resources for all students, districts can reserve up to 50% of the SIG funds to support instructional continuity.

These funds can apply to comprehensive campuses or campuses that feed into or are fed from a comprehensive campus, so long as those campuses are designated Title 1. For further guidance on eligible uses, see LINK. For more information on when to amend a grant, please see the [When to amend the application](#) document found on TEA website.

6. Will districts have access to SIG carryover? What is the process for carrying over funds next year?

The 2019-2020 Title 1, 1003 School Improvement Grant ends September 30, 2020. All grant funds will carry over into the 2020-2021 Title 1, 1003 School Improvement Grant. Once a notice of grant award has been awarded the district will be able to amend its grant and accept the carry over funds from the 2019-2020 Title 1, 1003 School Improvement Grant.

7. Will there be any additional funding for campuses to support instructional continuity this year?

TEA will release the Instructional Continuity Grant on April 6, 2020. This grant provides an opportunity for LEAs with identified Targeted Support and Improvement campuses to increase their capacity to facilitate instructional continuity and distance, remote, and/or virtual learning for identified targeted support and improvement campuses that have been affected by campus closures due to COVID-19. District awards will range between \$10,500 and \$220,000. The grant will cover costs associated with building capacity to deploy curriculum, curricular resources and assessments aligned to TEKS for Instructional Continuity and/or at-home schools, professional development in developing effective virtual learning instruction, providing monitoring and support to teachers, students, and parents, addressing or developing areas associated with any of the above actions or technical assistance provided by a Regional Education Service Center.

Eligible districts can apply for the grant by submitting an electronic application to grantapplications@tea.texas.gov. The application and other important grant information can be found on the TEA Grant Opportunities page. Pre-award costs will be allowable from March 13, 2020 and the grant end date will be July 30, 2021. For additional guidance and support in planning for instructional continuity, find TEA's Instructional Continuity planning framework [here](#).