



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 17, 2022

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Accountability and Supports

Prior to the pandemic, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) was required to run its federal school accountability system, the Michigan School Index, annually in fulfillment of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) of 2015](#). The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges for all, which led the United States Department of Education (USED) to grant waivers to states to set aside (1) state summative assessments for the 2019-20 school year and (2) federally required school accountability results determinations/release for 2019-20 and 2020-21.

This month, in compliance with federal ESSA, MDE again produced its School Index results, with data from the 2021-22 school year. Restarting the annual publication of the Michigan School Index includes identifying low-performing schools for support. The accountability system has several implications for schools, according to ESSA:

- MDE identified new cohorts of schools identified for [Comprehensive Support and Improvement \(CSI\)](#), [Additional Targeted Support \(ATS\)](#), and [Targeted Support and Improvement \(TSI\)](#).
- Schools were eligible to exit CSI and ATS status if they met all of the following exit criteria:
 - Showed improvement in math and ELA proficiency over two years
 - Attained a School Index value that would not re-identify the school
- Schools that did not meet the CSI exit criteria were re-identified for CSI.
- Schools that did not meet the ATS exit criteria were identified for CSI.

School identification definitions and criteria have not changed from [Michigan's approved consolidated state ESSA plan](#) and include the following:

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

- Lowest performing 5% of schools OR high schools with 4-year graduation rates of 67% or below.

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- Lowest performing schools determined by the School Index System's Overall Index Value.
- Four-year graduation rates of 67% or below determined under the graduation component of the School Index System.
- Identified every three years.

Additional Targeted Support (ATS)

- Schools having both:
 - One or more student subgroups in the bottom 25% of each applicable component **on the School Index System**, AND
 - One or more student subgroups in the bottom 5% overall
- Identified every six years (every other CSI cycle)

Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)

- Schools having at least one student subgroup performing in the bottom 25% of each of the school's components on the School Index System
- Identified annually

School Index resources, including documents covering School Index calculations, school identifications, and historical results, can be found on MDE's [School Index webpage](#). Much of the existing School Index system remains unchanged, including its targets and underlying calculations.

Newly identified schools and those that did not exit existing statuses are eligible for additional support from MDE, including but not limited to Partnership Agreements. The Office of Partnership Districts will provide three levels of support to districts with Partnership Agreements: Intensive, Essential, and Fundamental. The Office of Educational Supports will provide a basic level of support to districts that have schools identified for CSI and ATS that are not in a Partnership Agreement. Districts with schools only identified for TSI will be supported through universal support provided to districts by MDE and through their ISDs plus specific communication regarding TSI. For more information, please review the linked [Accountability & Supports presentation](#).

School Index and identification questions can be sent to mde-accountability@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments