



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 17, 2020

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

**FROM:** William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

**SUBJECT:** Update on Requirements for Schools Identified for Federal School  
Supports Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) –  
MEMO #COVID-19-146

With the spring closure of all Michigan schools and subsequent suspension of the 2020 statewide assessments as a result of the public health pandemic, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) received a waiver from the requirements to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI), additional targeted support (ATS), and targeted support and improvement (TSI) supports based on data from the 2019-20 school year.

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has since provided guidance to MDE on what this means for schools previously identified for support. This memorandum clarifies and outlines the federal Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) requirements that are in place for the 2020-21 school year for schools previously identified for CSI, ATS, or TSI supports.

The following bullets highlight key information regarding ESSA school support identifications:

- Following the waiver of spring 2020 statewide assessments, Michigan school index results for the 2019-20 school year will not be calculated and, as such, no new CSI, TSI, or ATS school identifications will be made using 2019-20 school year data.
- [Schools identified for CSI supports based on 2016-17 school year data](#) will remain in the current CSI cohort and continue receiving the respective supports outlined in this memo.

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- [Schools identified for ATS supports based on 2017-18 school year data](#) will remain in the current ATS cohort and continue receiving the respective supports outlined in this memo.
- [Schools identified for TSI supports based on 2018-19 school year data](#), or prior school year data ([2016-17](#), [2017-18](#)), that have not exited TSI status as determined by their local school district will remain in the current TSI cohort and continue receiving the supports outlined in this memo.

### **Continuous Improvement Plan Requirements**

Continuous improvement plans need to include the following elements as prescribed by ESSA.

For schools previously identified for CSI, the plan must include student performance goals based on state-determined long-term goals found on the MiSchoolData website (<https://www.mischooldata.org/>). The plan must also:

- Include evidence-based interventions.
- Be based on a school-level needs assessment.
- Identify resource inequities, which may include a review of local education agency and school-level budgeting. Any identified inequities must be addressed through implementation of the plan.

For schools previously identified for ATS or TSI, the plan must include student performance goals based on state-determined long-term goals found on the MiSchoolData website (<https://www.mischooldata.org/>). The plan must also:

- Include evidence-based interventions.
- Be approved by the local educational agency prior to implementation of the plan.

Schools previously identified for ATS have the additional requirement to identify any resource inequities, which may include a review of local educational agency and school-level budgeting. Any identified inequities must be addressed through implementation of the plan.

### **Supports for Identified Schools**

Districts with schools identified by the Michigan school index system for CSI, ATS, and/or TSI in December 2019 or prior are eligible to receive additional support from MDE. Regional consultants from MDE's office of educational supports are available to help these districts explore professional learning and technical assistance opportunities available from MDE's technical assistance centers to support district efforts to improve outcomes for students. Districts with partnership agreements will continue to receive technical assistance from the office of partnership districts. Below are brief summaries of the available supports. All are optional and are provided at no cost to districts.

- **Blueprint for System Reconfiguration:** The blueprint is comprised of research and evidence-based effective practices that guide school and district leaders in the implementation of systems and routines that increase the

instructional and leadership capacity of adults and positively affect student outcomes. If interested, your district may contact Beth Brophy with the statewide field team (SWFT) at [brophy@calhounisd.org](mailto:brophy@calhounisd.org).

- **Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System (EWIMS):** EWIMS is a data-driven, decision-making process that helps educators systematically identify students who are showing signs that they are at risk of dropping out of school; examine the underlying causes of risk; match student needs to interventions; and then monitor student progress and the success of those interventions. Fundamentally, EWIMS is an ongoing cycle of examining data and making decisions about supports and interventions to help students get back on track and succeed. Targeted technical assistance plans can be developed for districts that are interested. Universal supports can be found on the [MDE's EWIMS website \(www.mi.gov/mde-ewims\)](http://www.mi.gov/mde-ewims). If interested, your district may contact Bersheril Bailey at [baileyb1@michigan.gov](mailto:baileyb1@michigan.gov).
- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS):** MTSS is a framework to provide all students with opportunities to succeed academically and behaviorally in school. MTSS focuses on providing high quality instruction and interventions matched to student need, and monitoring progress frequently to make decisions about changes in instruction or goals. Data are used to allocate resources to improve student learning and support staff implementation of effective practices. For more information about MTSS, please visit the [MiMTSS Technical Assistance Center webpage \(www.mimtsstac.org\)](http://www.mimtsstac.org). If interested, the district may contact Kim St. Martin at [kstmartin@mimtss.org](mailto:kstmartin@mimtss.org).

### **Anticipated Future School Support Identifications**

MDE will consider and evaluate guidance as it becomes available from USED regarding future identification of schools for CSI, ATS, and TSI supports based on data from the 2020-21 school year. Additional communications regarding school support identifications will be forthcoming.

### **Resources on the Michigan School Index System**

Extensive resource materials, including CSI, ATS, and TSI overviews and a school support identification process flowchart, can be found on the [Michigan School Index System Resources webpage \(www.mi.gov/mde-schoolindex\)](http://www.mi.gov/mde-schoolindex).

### **Contacts**

- Questions regarding CSI plans and requirements may be sent to Dan LaDue at [ladued@michigan.gov](mailto:ladued@michigan.gov).
- Questions regarding ATS and TSI plans and requirements may be sent to Bill Witt at [wittb1@michigan.gov](mailto:wittb1@michigan.gov).
- For support regarding access to, and calculations, of the Michigan school index system, please contact [MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Accountability@michigan.gov), or by calling 877-560-8378, option 3.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors