

## Targeted Support and Improvement Identification

Superintendents and Charter School Directors,

You are receiving this letter because your local education agency (LEA) may have one or more schools identified for a new category of school improvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). LEAs are responsible for notifying schools identified. A link to the list of identified schools may be found below.

### Requirement:

ESSA requires states to annually identify any public school with one or more “consistently underperforming” student groups for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). The goal is to encourage the state, LEAs, and schools to focus more attention on underserved populations and meet education goals for each student. See ESSA Section 1111(d)(2):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf>

### Identification Criteria:

A school will be identified for TSI if, for two consecutive years, any of its student groups fall below the percentage of points associated with the lowest performing five percent of schools in the state’s accountability system. Student groups include:

- Students who are identified as economically disadvantaged
- Students with disabilities
- Students who are identified as English learners
- Students by major racial and ethnic groups

This identification occurs annually beginning school year 2018–2019. Schools already identified for either State School Turnaround or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) under ESSA will not be identified for TSI.

### LEA Responsibility:

Each LEA receiving this notification, in partnership with stakeholders including principals and other school leaders, teachers and parents, is required to develop and implement a school-level targeted TSI plan to improve student outcomes based on the indicators in the statewide accountability system for each student group that was the subject of notification. LEAs are responsible for TSI notification, implementation, and monitoring. The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) is not provided with resources to support TSI requirements.

TSI requirements and processes led by the LEA:

1. Notify schools of TSI status
2. Schools must partner with stakeholders to establish a Targeted Support and Improvement Plan for each identified student group
3. TSI Plan(s) must include interventions that meet ESSA’s evidence-based requirements and may include a review of LEA and school-level budgeting to identify resource inequities,
4. TSI plan(s) must be approved by the LEA prior to implementation
5. LEA must monitor implementation of the TSI plan(s)

### Exit Criteria:

As outlined in [Utah’s ESSA State Plan](#), schools identified for TSI will exit when, for two consecutive years, the school no longer has student groups performing below the percentage of points (cut score) associated with the lowest performing five percent of schools in the state’s accountability system. A school may not exit if student outcomes for the student

group have not improved (e.g., the student group does not show improvement in proficiency rates and student growth measures). Schools are expected to make the necessary improvements to exit within four years. The timeline for exiting targeted support and improvement status is intended to allow schools at least two years to implement changes in practice and two years to demonstrate consecutive years of improvement. Any Title I school that does not meet the exit criteria within four years will be identified for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI).

**Schools Identified for TSI:**

The statewide list of TSI schools and the student groups that identified each school as TSI may be found here:

<https://www.schools.utah.gov/File/49e3f2e1-00d4-4706-8cd2-c947dd8b00ec>

**Key to the student group codes:**

EDA	Economically Disadvantaged
SWD	Students with Disabilities
ELL	English Language Learner
AM7	American Indian/Alaska Native
AS7	Asian
BL7	Black/African American
HI7	Hispanic
WH7	Caucasian
MU7	Multiracial
PI7	Pacific Islander

**Support and Additional Information:**

Members of the USBE’s school improvement team will be available at the following meetings to answer questions:

- Charter School Directors Meeting – March 11 from 12:30–3:00 PM, USBE Basement West Conference Room
- Title I Directors Meeting – March 15 from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM, USBE Basement West Conference Room
- Utah Alternative Education Association – March 15 at 2:00 PM at Valley High School
- Assessment Directors Meeting – March 21 from 8:00-11:00 AM, USBE Basement West Conference Room
- Utah Special Education Administrators Meeting – TBA
- Utah School Superintendents Association Meeting – TBA

Additional plans for informational meetings and opportunities are forthcoming.

More information about Utah’s Accountability System may be found here:

<https://schools.utah.gov/eseastateinitiatives/schoolimprovement>

More information about Utah’s System of Supports for School Improvement may be found here:

<https://schools.utah.gov/eseastateinitiatives/schoolimprovement?mid=1384&tid=0>

Sincerely,

Patty Norman, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement

Cc: Sydnee Dickson, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction