

Mike DeWine, Governor
Dr. Christopher Woolard, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dear Principal [Last Name]:

2023 Federal School Improvement Identification Notification and Update for [Building Name] [IRN]

Ohio recently updated the federal school improvement categories to align with federal requirements¹ and Ohio's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan revision. As required by ESSA, Ohio uses the accountability measures on Ohio's School Report Cards as a gauge for continuous improvement and to identify the state's lowest-performing schools to receive additional support. With the recent changes to Ohio's school and district report cards, schools and districts now receive star ratings for each of the five report card components. Additional information on the changes to the accountability system can be found on the Department's Report Card Resources webpage.

Your identification category: [building identification].

Priority schools are now referred to as **Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)** schools. Warning schools are now referred to as **Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)** schools. Focus schools are now referred to as **Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)** schools.

Criteria for School Identification:

- **Overall Performance:** CSI designations encompass, at a minimum, the lowest performing 5% of schools receiving Title I funds statewide and any public school with a graduation rate at or under 67%.
- **Subgroup Performance:** ATSI and TSI designations include schools with one or more student subgroups that are among the lowest performing of student subgroups statewide.

Requirements for Identified Schools: All schools identified for improvement support (CSI, ATSI, and TSI) are required to examine their school data and complete the One Needs Assessment and One Plan. Improvement plans should be developed using the Ohio Improvement Process. The Department expects districts and schools to routinely update One Needs Assessment and One Plan submissions based on developing priorities, such as the need to improve literacy outcomes. The Department anticipates that updated plan requirements will include activities aligned with Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement if applicable.

Support for Identified Schools: Identified schools and districts are eligible for school improvement grants and support from Ohio's State Support Teams.

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- **Grant Funding:** The Office for Improvement and Innovation administers the Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement Grant, School Quality Improvement Grant, and Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Grant. Guidance and support opportunities are available on the Department's website. Contact School_Improvement@education.ohio.gov for additional information.
- **Improvement Support:** State Support Team (SST) consultants assist districts and schools in improving outcomes for each child with a focus on leadership, team development and inclusive instructional practices. SST consultants have expertise with the Ohio Improvement Process and are available to support needs assessment and One Plan revisions. There is no cost to use their services. Contact your State Support Team to learn more about support opportunities.

As a reminder, a school district may allow students who are enrolled in a district school that has been identified for comprehensive support and improvement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to transfer to a higher-performing school in the district. If this option is used, the district must permit students who transfer to remain in their new school through the highest grade offered by the school. The district also may use up to 5% of its Title I, Part A funds to provide transportation for students to their new schools. If all transfers cannot be accommodated, the district must give priority to the lowest-achieving students from low-income families.

Please visit www.education.ohio.gov/identification for links to resources and relevant documents related to the identification process.

Please contact the Office for Improvement and Innovation for any additional assistance or information at regional.support@education.ohio.gov.

Best regards,

Cynthia Dewey, PhD, Director
Office for Improvement and Innovation

CC:
Superintendent
SST Director

¹Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA section 1111(d))