Support Schools Tool
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. What is the Support Schools Tool?
   A. The Ohio Department of Education's Support Schools Tool helps traditional districts and schools and community schools track how effectively they are implementing evidenced-based strategies included in their improvement plans. The Support Schools Tool also helps districts and schools identify supports that may be available from their regional state support teams and the Ohio Department of Education.

2. Q. What is the connection between previous years' Support Schools Tools and this year's?
   A. Districts and schools that used previous years' Support Schools Tools will continue to monitor their improvement. Districts review their schools' progress, identifying areas for growth and needed supports.

3. Q. Who should complete the Support Schools Tool?
   A. Districts:
      - Academic Distress Commission, Intensive and Moderate D/F support districts
      - Moderate C and Independent districts that have one or more required questions in their tools (for example, a gifted or improvement grant/s).

   Traditional public schools and community schools:
      - Priority and Focus schools
      - Community schools with one or more required questions in their Support Schools Tool (for example, gifted or improvement grant)

4. Q. Must a district or school answer the required questions in the Support Schools Tool?
   A. Yes. Required questions are identified with an asterisk "*" and based on the district or school's support level or trigger criteria.

5. Q. Who should answer the grant funding questions?
   A. Districts and schools that received funding for: School Improvement, School Quality Improvement, Title I non-competitive, or Expanding Opportunities for Each Child (competitive and non-competitive) grants.

6. Q. What can I do if I can't see my district or school's questions?
   A. Ask your state support team to start your tool.

7. Q. What if a tool was not generated for my district, school or community school?
   A. Please send your request for a tool to: school_improvement@education.ohio.gov

8. Q. When do districts, schools and community schools submit the Support Schools Tool?
   A. Districts and schools can use the tool throughout the school year to track their improvement plan implementation. The goal for Cohort 1 districts, schools and community schools is to complete entries and submit their tools by Feb. 28, 2021. The goal for all others (Cohorts 2 and 3) is March 31, 2021. Districts should set dates for their schools to submit their Support Schools Tools, so they have time to review the tools and coach their schools.

9. Q. What are the Fiscal Year 2021 Support Schools Tool improvements?
   A. There are fewer questions, inputs will autosave, data and plan results questions are focused on priority needs and evidenced based strategies and all questions will be available for everyone (required questions are identified with an asterisk "*").

10. Q. How do districts and schools access the Support Schools Tool?
    A. Those working with the Support Schools Tool need OH|ID portal accounts with a "Support Tool" role assignment in the Ohio Educational Directory System (OEDS).

       For directions on how to gain tool access refer to the Support Schools User Manual, "Accessing the School District or Tool" section.

11. Q. What are the parameters for uploading documents in the Questions Tab?
    A. Documents may be loaded in response to a question:
       a. If the file size does not exceed 100 MB; or
       b. If using the drop and drag feature, the file size of one or a combination of files does not exceed 100 MB.