Ohio | Department of Education

Title I, Schoolwide Waiver Guidance

June 2021

What is a SW Waiver?

An SEA has discretion to grant a waiver to allow a Title I school to operate a schoolwide program without meeting the 40 percent poverty threshold if the SEA has determined that a schoolwide program will best serve the needs of students in the school who are failing, or at risk of failing, to meet the challenging State academic standards. (ESEA sections 1114(a)(1)(B) and (b)(6)). To grant such a waiver, an SEA must take into account how a schoolwide program will best serve the needs of the students in the school in improving academic achievement, and other factors. (ESEA section 1114(a)(1)(B)). As an SEA considers exercising this new flexibility, the Department encourages the SEA to establish a process, informed through feedback from the public, and criteria to ensure that schools receiving a waiver will operate a schoolwide program in a way that improves the achievement of students in the school who would otherwise be eligible to receive Title I services through a targeted assistance program.

Eligibility to Apply:

Schools currently utilizing Title I funds for a Targeted Assistance (TA) service type, but not eligible for Schoolwide (SW) service, may apply for a SW Waiver. To be TA the school must be at/above 35% low income or at/above your district low-income average and have more than 10 students eligible for free and reduced priced lunch.

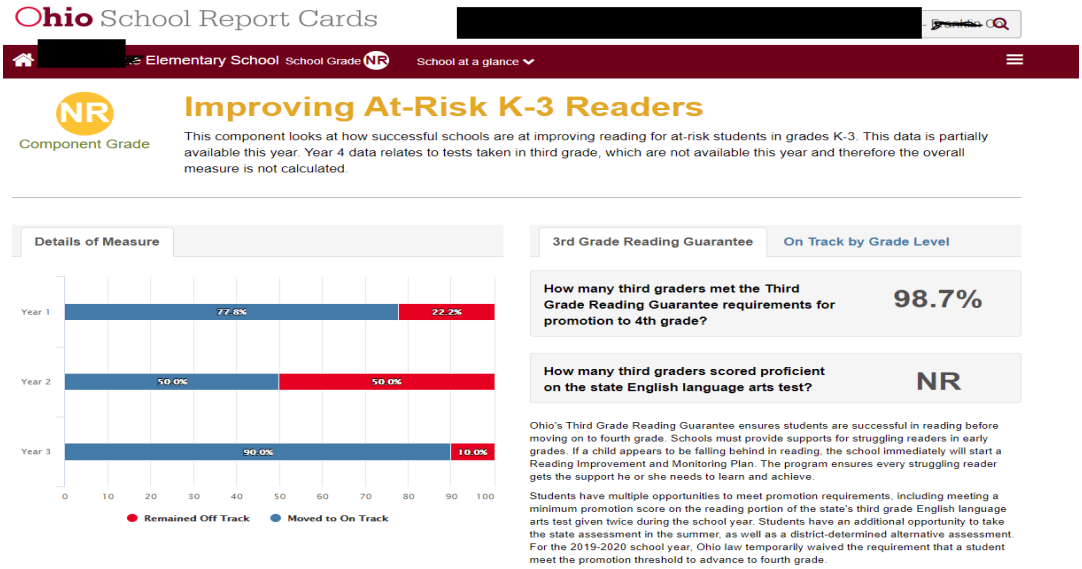
In addition, buildings that are applying for a SW Waiver, must demonstrate that they are able to meet the needs of their students who are most at-risk of not meeting the state's academic challenges. The building must have a gap closure measure of C or higher on their most recent report card to be eligible to apply for a waiver.

Justification of SW Waiver:

For a school to be approved for a SW Waiver the following items will need to be provided in the application.

1) Explain the measure selected and why this measure was chosen.

Schools must identify a specific area from their building report card. This can be as specific as desired. For example, a school could say they want to meet their indicator for ELA on their report card or they could say they want a specific grade level and/or student group to meet the indicator on the report card. The description on the SW Waiver justification page should include name of the measure, specific areas if they apply, reasoning must refer to the measure and its impact on the building and student learning. In this sample, the district could state that the building wants to be able to target grades K-3 for early intervention services to improve the percentage of students that met the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee requirements and were able to be promoted to 4th grade.



2.) Expected Impact:

The district must explain the expected impact the school believes going to SW will have on improving results for this measure. How does the district expect SW designation will impact their outcome? Describe what would be different for the school that it currently is not able to provide in the building.

3.) Provide Timeline and Expected Results:

The district must describe the timeline for improvements, the expected results for implementation of Schoolwide program, and how the school will monitor progress towards the selected outcome. This should include a timeline for when the building expects to meet its target as well as measures of progress towards target. Include what measures the building will use to monitor progress beyond the building report card.

4.) Schoolwide Title I Program:

Describe the activities the building will do in its SW program for the upcoming school year to work toward meeting the results identified in question 3.

Continuation of SW Waiver:

For a building to continue to be eligible to apply annually for a SW Waiver, they must maintain or show progress towards the identified outcome in the SW Waiver Justification. Once the timeline has passed for the building to demonstrate a result, an evaluation must occur to determine if continuation under SW Waiver is in the best interest of the building and students for whom the Title I program is supposed to serve, those most at-risk of not meeting the state's academic standards.

FAQS

1. Who can apply for a SW Waiver?

Any district can apply for a building in the district that is eligible for Title I targeted assistance services or whose poverty percentage is at or above the district's poverty percentage and has 10 or more students eligible for Free and Reduced price lunch.

2. How often can we apply?

The district may apply annually for the SW Waiver as long as the building is maintaining or making progress towards improvement on the selected measure.

3. What happens if we do not meet our expected measure?

If at the end of the timeline established by the district, the building does not meet the expected measure, the district must evaluate whether it is in the best interest of the building and the Title I eligible students in the building, that the building continue to operate under a SW Title I model. If the district determines that it is, then the district and building must provide a justification for the continuation in the SW Waiver program by completing the SW Waiver justification page with updated measures, timelines, and activities.

4. Is there a limit on how many times we can apply or schools?

No, there is no limit on how many times or schools the district can select to apply for the waiver. The district must consider what is in the best interest of each building that would be eligible and the district's capacity to support the buildings operating under a SW Title I Waiver program.

5. Can we use our student measures and adult implementation measures from our plan as the measure?

Yes. It is recommended that the district and building examines ways that they can use measures already established to monitor under the SW Waiver instead of adding additional items to the district/building monitoring activities.

6. Can we identify strategies or action steps in the building plan for the activities that we will be implementing?

Yes. Activities that are listed on the SW Waiver justification page must be included in the buildings improvement plan.

7. What other requirements will the building have resulting from going to SW Waiver?

The building must form a SW Title I team, complete a comprehensive needs improvement and develop an improvement plan in the CCIP using the One Needs Assessment and Planning Tool. Title I SW buildings will have required questions in the One Needs Assessment to address the Title I SW components.