School Turnaround Pilot Program



Grant Guidance

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Department of Education & Workforce

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Department of Education & Workforce

School Turnaround Pilot Program Guidance

Intent and Purpose

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3302.121, the School Turnaround Pilot Program pairs schools identified as needing comprehensive support with approved vendors experienced in improving student outcomes.

The program seeks to enhance academic outcomes and overall school performance through comprehensive assistance, including professional development for staff, evidence-based instructional strategies, and resources to address specific areas of need. The goal is to create sustainable improvements that positively impact student achievement.

This document details the guidelines for eligible grantees that elect to participate in the School Turnaround Pilot Program.

Eligibility

Schools participating in the School Turnaround Pilot Program School were invited to participate based on the following criteria:

1. Federally identified as comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) school in both 2018 and 2023.
2. High percentage of students performing below proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24).
3. High percentage of students performing below proficiency in math for FY24.
4. High percentage of unclaimed federal funds from FY23 and FY24.

Additionally, among all the schools participating, they must represent at least five (5) of the state's sixteen State Support Team (SST) regions.

Grant Requirements

Participants in the School Turnaround Pilot Program will receive up to an additional $250,000 in Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement (TI NC SSI) funds, which are located in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Planning (CCIP).

Grantees must select a vendor from the approved vendor list. LEAs and schools will be responsible for selecting a vendor and will contract directly with the vendor. LEAs must stay with the vendor for at least two consecutive years

Schools participating in the program must commit to a rigorous process of self-assessment and continuous improvement, supported by regular monitoring and evaluation.

Each participating school district must:

- No later than 30 days after signing and executing this agreement, the participating LEA shall execute a contract with the approved vendor they have selected to work with.
    - Once executed, a copy of the signed contract must be uploaded into the FY26 TI NC SSI CCIP.
- Comply fully with the FY2026 guidelines of Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement grant funds, including budget grid upload and completion of supplemental application information.
- Conduct a needs assessment, develop a multi-year improvement plan, and ensure the implementation of evidence-based interventions to improve academic achievement in literacy or mathematics.
- Identify and implement evidence-based strategies under the grant designed to achieve goals to improve student outcomes in literacy and or mathematics.
- Complete an annual evaluation and monitoring requirements, including LEA monitoring, building monitoring, and I-MTSS implementation.
- Commit to working with the selected vendor for at least two years.
- Monitor the LEA's contract with the approved vendor and deliverables based on evidence of completion.

Data Collection and Reporting

Throughout the School Turnaround Pilot Program, the LEA and participating school must track student and adult outcomes. Following each fiscal year, the LEA must complete the outcomes report. More information will be provided in April 2026.

The LEA agrees to collect data throughout the program period, including:

- Pre- and post-intervention comparisons of local student performance outcomes.
- Pre- and post-intervention comparisons of adult behavior and adult (implementation) goals.
- If applicable, data related to specific interventions in order determine whether interventions had the desired impact.
- Recommendations for improving interventions if performance goals are not met.
- Demographic data of students and staff involved in the interventions.
- Stakeholder (students, parents, teachers, administrators, community representatives) feedback regarding success of interventions.
- Data collected and analyzed to monitor intervention implementation.
- Financial reports detailing the utilization of grant funds.
- Project meeting logs and agendas.

- Additional documentation as requested.

CCIP Application Requirements

Grantees must upload additional documentation to their FY26 TI NC SSI funding application, which is located in the CCIP. Documents include:

- Completed budget grid
- Signed grant agreement
- MOU and contract with approved vendor

Additional information must be provided to the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) upon request.

Vendor Contract Termination

If a grantee decides to terminate their agreement with an approved turnaround vendor during the School Turnaround Pilot Program, the following steps must be taken:

1. Notify the vendor and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce of the intent to terminate the contract.
2. Submit a formal termination letter to the vendor and DEW.
3. Ensure that all outstanding obligations and deliverables are fulfilled prior to the termination date.
4. Update the CCIP to reflect the termination of partnership with the school turnaround vendor.
5. Provide a brief report detailing the reasons for termination and any relevant outcomes achieved up to the date of termination.
6. Cooperate with DEW to ensure a smooth transition and minimal disruption to the program beneficiaries.
7. Comply with any additional requirements as stipulated by the grant agreement or requested by DEW

Once all the above steps are complete, the Department will release the remaining additional allocation of funds. LEAs will no longer have access to any remaining funds and will then need to revise their budget in the one funding application.

Grant Termination

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce reserves the right to withhold, reduce, or terminate funding upon discovery of issues such as violation of grant rules, law, program assurances, failure to respond to non-compliance notices, failure to implement corrective action plans, failure to address data or monitoring requirements, and/or violation of health, safety, or civil rights. Funding is also contingent on continued federal funding.