



Kentucky Department of Education School Improvement Efforts

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School Improvement Classifications

Status	ID Cycle	Criteria
Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)	Annually	1) Bottom 5% of Schools by Level 2) Graduation Rate Below 80% 3) Failed to Exit ATSI Status
Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)	Annually	A subgroup performing at or below the bottom 5% by level for three consecutive years.
Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)	Every Three Years	Identified as TSI the year prior to identification and did not exit.

The Policy Context

- The identification of schools in need of improvement is mandated by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.
- Kentucky's process is governed by KRS 160.346 and 704 KAR 5:280.
- SB 1 (2017) Amended KRS 160.346 and placed improvement identifications on an annual cycle.
- SB 175 (2019) amended KRS 160.346 to require annual CSI identification and to change the TSI identification criteria to require three years of consecutive low performance by a subgroup.

The Policy Context, Continued

- SB 158 (2020) amended KRS 160.346 and placed CSI identification on a three-year cycle. It also created a new calculation for CSI identification that requires the KDE to use an average of three years of change when determining the bottom five percent.
- Waivers offered by the US Department of Education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the implementation of SB 158 (2020) until the 2022 identification cycle.
- HB 298 (2025) returned the CSI identification cycle to an annual cycle.

Policy Impact on CSI Counts

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Count	50	49	44	45	27	20	49
ID Cycle	Annual ID	Annual ID	Pandemic Freeze	Switch to Three Year Cycle	Year Two of Three Year Cycle	Year Three of Three Year Cycle	Return to Annual ID

2025 Identification Counts

Status	Count
CSI	49
TSI	39
ATSI	101

2025 CSI Demographic Landscape

	Pct. EL	Pct. SWD
Min	0%	9%
Median	24%	18%
Max	61%	51%

A Statutory and Regulatory Process

The process for CSI can be found in KRS 160.346 and 703 KAR 5:280.

1. Schools are identified based on the state's accountability system.
2. Schools receive support from the KDE on day one; provided by Education Recovery (ER) Staff.
3. Schools and districts undergo a Diagnostic Review.
4. Schools and districts develop a three-year turnaround plan that is approved by the local Board of Education and the KDE.
5. Schools identify a turnaround team that is approved by the local Board of Education.
6. The KDE issues federal School Improvement Fund (SIF) grants.
7. Schools and districts implement their plans with support from the Education Recovery (ER) staff.

KDE's Support for CSI Schools

- The KDE provides the following supports:
 - Mentoring and providing support to school leadership
 - Assisting with standard, curriculum, instruction, and assessment alignment
 - Delivering timely, job-embedded professional learning
 - Supporting the continuous improvement process through planning and monitoring
 - Support resolving issues with compliance and reporting

KDE Strategic Partners

- Carnegie
- Cognia
- Shipley
- NISL
- Cognitive Coaching
- Rutherford Learning Group
- DataCamp
- Adaptive Schools

Support for TSI and ATSI Schools

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 requires that local school districts intervene to support their TSI schools.
- TSI schools must:
 - Amend their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) to include:
 - Components of turnaround leadership;
 - The identification of critical resource inequities;
 - Evidence-based interventions; and
 - Additional actions taken to support students from consistently underperforming groups.

KDE's Supports for TSI Schools

- In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the KDE was able to provide support to TSI schools due to the CSI identification cycles.
- KDE support for TSI schools was optional – all TSI schools were given notice and opportunity to opt in.
- Schools who opted-in to TSI support received:
 - Continuous Improvement Review;
 - Strategic Planning Support;
 - Needs Assessment Analysis;
 - Professional Learning;
 - Leadership Coaching and Support;
 - PLC Development Support;
 - Leadership Team Retreats;
 - Walkthrough Support;
 - Data Analysis Support;
 - MTSS Development Support; and
 - TSI Monthly Newsletter.

The Kentucky Educational Recovery Fund

- TSI schools who participated in KDE's supports:
 - In 2024-25, 26.5% of schools who received KDE support exited the status.
 - In 2025-26, 45.5% of schools who received KDE support exited the status.
- To continue the success of the TSI support program deployed in 2023-24 and 2024-25, the KDE has submitted an ABR to create the "Kentucky Educational Recovery Fund".
- These funds (\$4,000,000 per year) will allow the KDE to continue its support of TSI schools.

Questions