

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM

Topic: KDE School Improvement Efforts

Date: April 2026

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

During this presentation, staff from the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support will review the KDE's processes for supporting schools identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI).

Schools in Kentucky are annually identified for TSI status if they have a subgroup of students performing at or below the bottom five percent of all schools by level for three consecutive years. ATSI schools are identified every three years and require a school to be identified for TSI status in the year prior to ATSI identification. CSI schools are identified annually if they have overall performance in the bottom five percent of all schools by level, a graduation rate below 80 percent, or failed to exit ATSI status after three years. In 2025, KDE identified 39 TSI schools, 101 ATSI, schools, and 49 CSI schools.

Federal law requires local school districts to provide support for TSI and ATSI schools. The KDE offers limited support to these schools as funds are available, including:

- 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 procedures for CSI schools are found across federal and state law and state statute. The procedures are as follows:

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.

In addition to these required steps, the KDE provides the following supports to CSI schools:

- 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 also partners with a variety of community partners to extend capacity and provide additional support to schools. The current list of community partners includes:

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

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Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner's Management