

FROM ESSA PLANS TO IMPLEMENTATION

A Look at Fifty State Plans and
Opportunities to Advance Effective School
Improvement



May 14, 2018

EducationCounsel
Policy | Strategy | Law | Advocacy

Agenda

- 1** Setting the ESSA Context
- 2** Trends in ESSA Plans
- 3** Designing School Improvement Systems

- 4** What We Know
- 5** Moving to Implementation
- 6** Q & A

Setting the ESSA Context

How long ago was ESSA enacted?

- A. 1 year ago
- B. 1 ½ year ago
- C. 2 years ago
- D. 2 ½ years ago

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Answer: D

What does ESSA include?

- A. Focus on equity
- B. Focus on CCR expectations
- C. Devolution toward states and districts
- D. Focus on stakeholder engagement, use of evidence, and continuous improvement

What does ESSA include?

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- B. Focus on CCR expectations
- C. Devolution toward states and districts
- D. Focus on stakeholder engagement, use of evidence, and continuous improvement

Answer: All of the above

True or False?

States and districts must meet all ESSA requirements even if they were not required by USED to be addressed in ESSA state plans

True or False?

States and districts must meet all ESSA requirements even if they were not required by USED to be addressed in ESSA state plans

Answer: True

True or False?

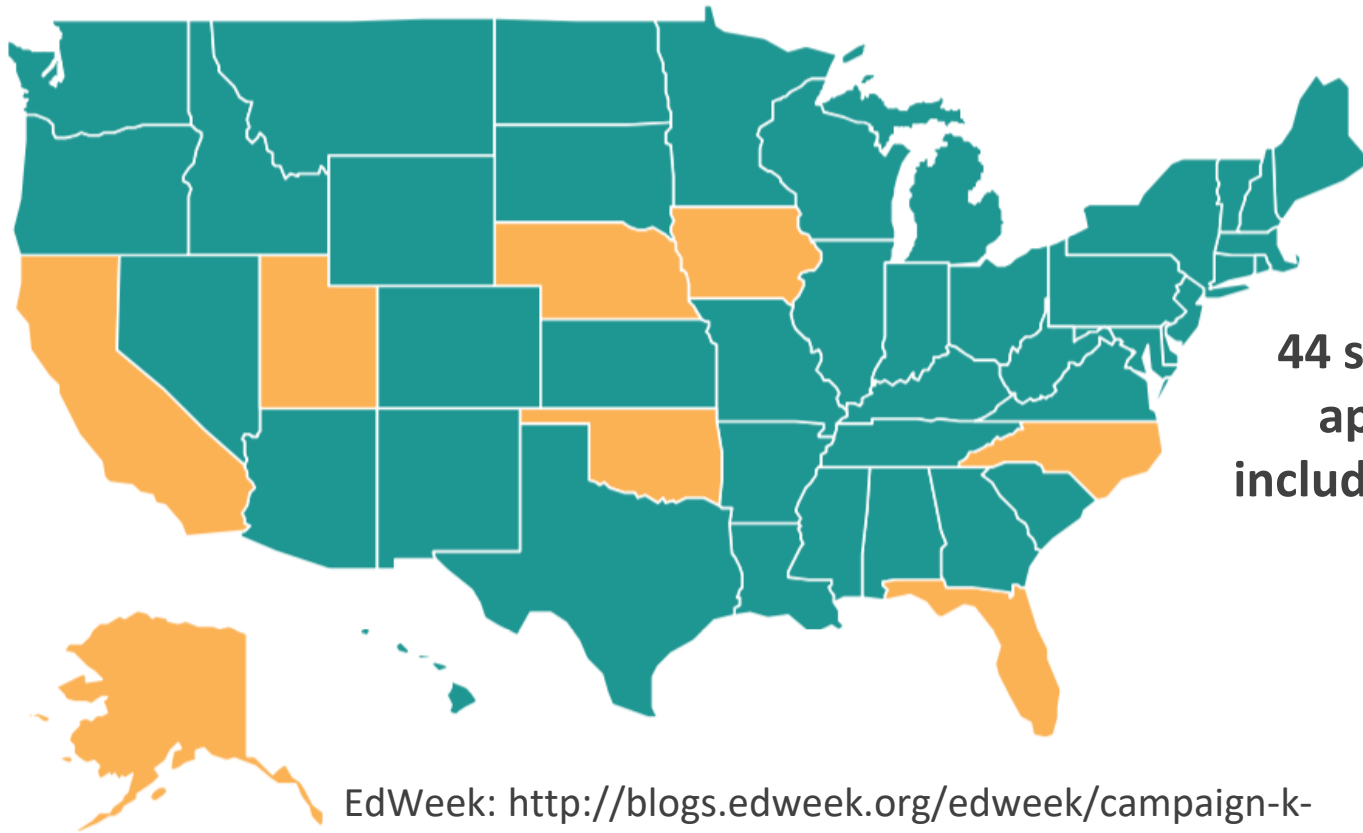
Just because something was not in a state's federal ESSA plan does not mean the state is not doing it.

True or False?

Just because something was not in a state's federal ESSA plan does not mean the state is not doing it.

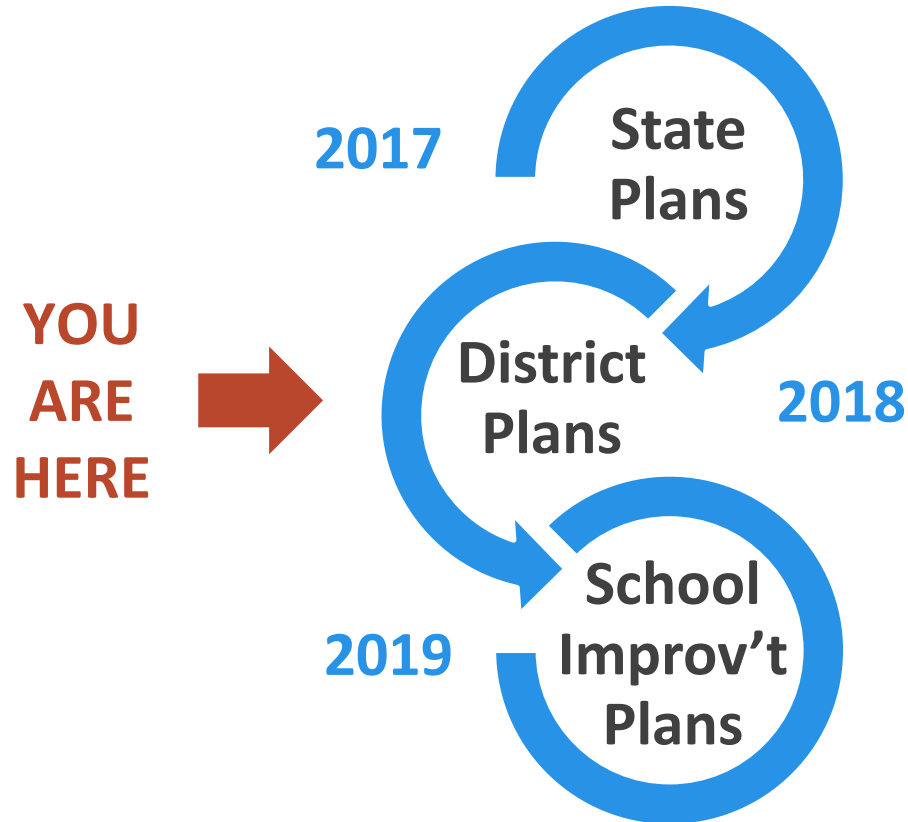
Answer: True

Status Update



**44 state plans
approved,
including DC & PR**

Sequence of ESSA plans



Trends in ESSA State Plans Accountability

**NOTE: Information subject to significant change during Plan approval process*

ESSA Trends Analysis

Focus Areas

Standards &
Assessments

Accountability, Support,
& School Improvement

Teachers & Leaders

Supporting All Students
(EL, SWD, Title IV)

Stakeholder
Engagement

Continuous
Improvement

ESSA sets accountability expectations

Goals

Long term goals

Interim goals

Gap closure

Indicators

Academic

Other academic

Grad rate

ELP

SQSS

System of Differentiation

N-size

Weights

Different'n

Subgroups

School Identification

Definitions:
CSI, TSI, ATSI

Timelines

Exit criteria

Resource allocation

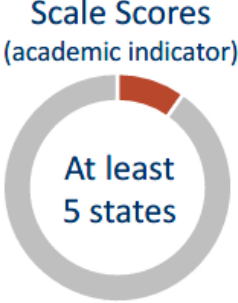
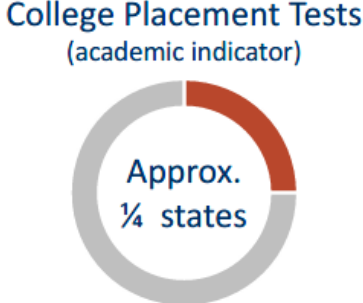
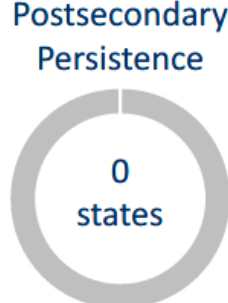
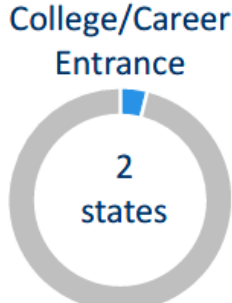
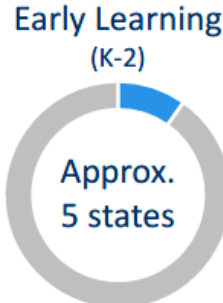
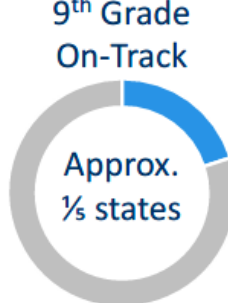
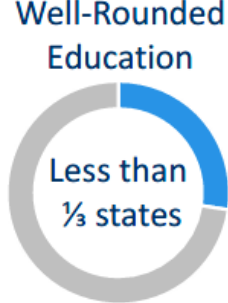
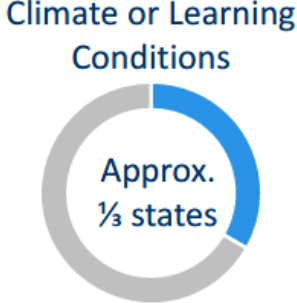
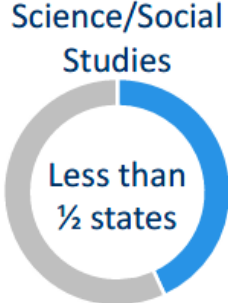
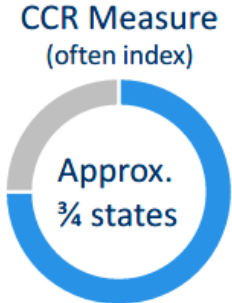
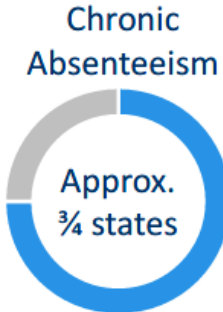
Overall Accountability Trends

Trends in ESSA state plans

- Goals
- N-size
- Differentiation of schools
- CSI/TSI
- Indicators/measures
- Subgroup accountability



Trends in new state accountability measures



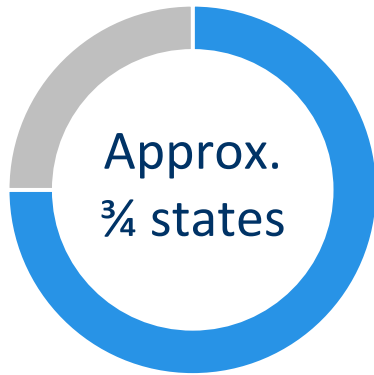
Participation Rate* (academic indicator)

*A large number of states were required to update this measure prior to plan approval. Numbers not yet known.

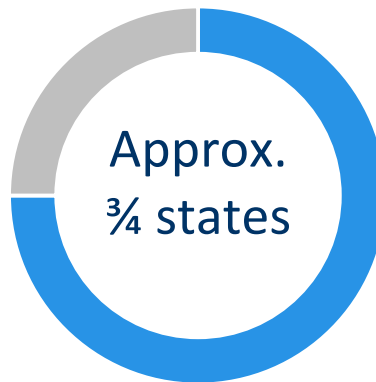
Trends in new state accountability measures

Measures of School Quality and Student Success

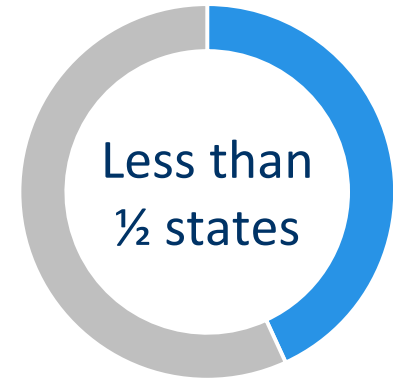
Chronic
Absenteeism



CCR Measure
(often index)



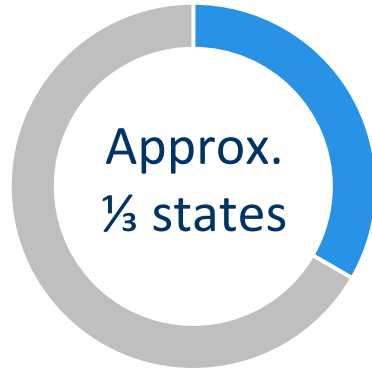
Science/
Social Studies



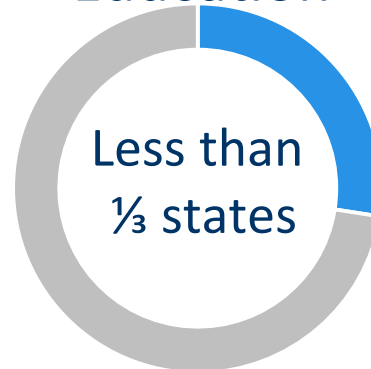
Trends in new state accountability measures

Measures of School Quality and Student Success

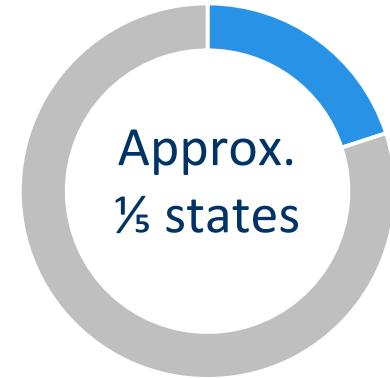
Climate or Learning
Conditions



Well-Rounded
Education



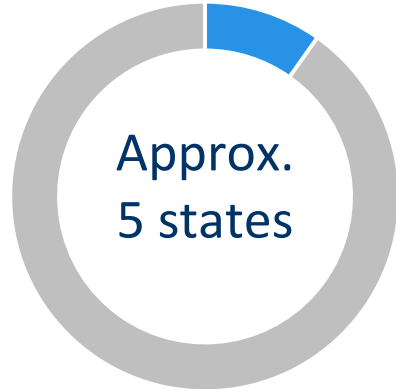
9th Grade
On-Track



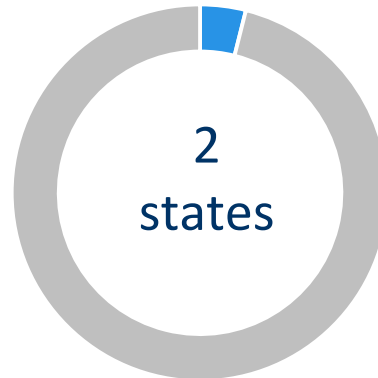
Trends in new state accountability measures

Measures of School Quality and Student Success

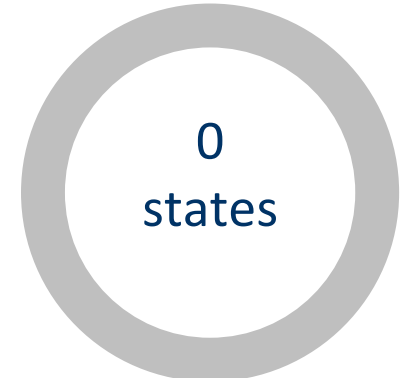
Early Learning
(K-2)



College/Career
Entrance



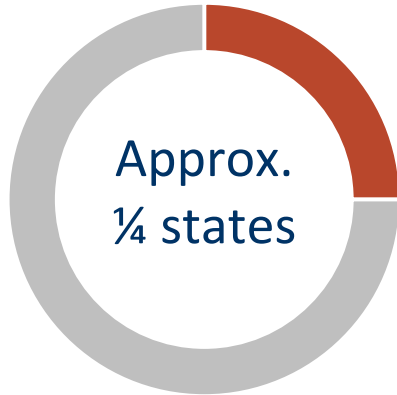
Postsecondary
Persistence



Trends in new state accountability measures

Measures for Academic Indicator

College Placement Tests
(academic indicator)



Scale Scores
(academic indicator)



Participation Rate*
(academic indicator)

*A large number of states were required to update this measure prior to plan approval. Numbers not yet known.

Trends in ESSA State Plans School Improvement

**NOTE: Information subject to significant change during Plan approval process*

School Supports and Improvement

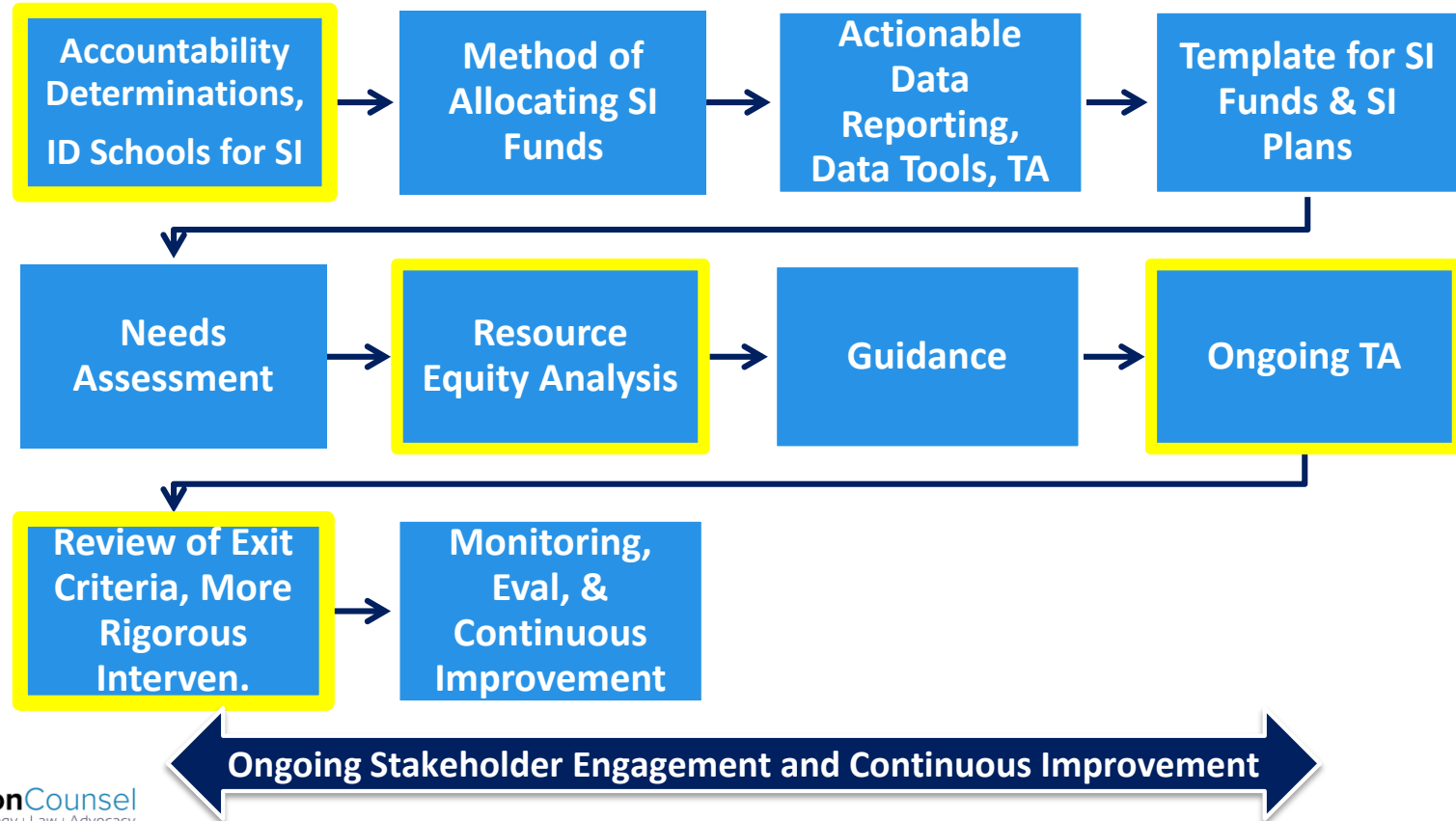
Trends in ESSA state plans

- Use of school improvement funds
- Systems, structures, and frameworks to support school improvement
- Needs assessment
- Evidence, data, and continuous improvement



School Improvement Architecture

ESSA's State School Improvement Architecture



Principles of Effective School Improvement Systems

Published by the Council of Chief State School Officers (2017)

CCSSO School Improvement Principles

1	Elevate school improvement as an urgent priority at every level of the system—schools, LEAs, and the SEA—and establish for each level clear roles, lines of authority, and responsibilities for improving low-performing schools.	<i>If everything's a priority, nothing is.</i>
2	Make decisions based on what will best serve each and every student with the expectation that all students can and will master the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, career, and civic life. Challenge and change existing structures or norms that perpetuate low performance or stymie improvement.	<i>Put students at the center so that every student succeeds.</i>
3	Engage early, regularly, and authentically with stakeholders and partners so improvement is done with and not to the school, families, and the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with schools, families, and community members to build trusting relationships, expand capacity, inform planning, build political will, strengthen community leadership and commitment, and provide feedback loops to adjust as needed. Integrate school and community assets as well as early childhood, higher education, social services, and workforce systems to, among other things, help address challenges outside of school. 	<i>If you want to go far, go together.</i>
4	Select at each level the strategy that best matches the context at hand—from LEAs and schools designing evidence-based improvement plans to SEAs exercising the most appropriate state-level authority to intervene in non-existing schools.	<i>One size does not fit all.</i>
5	Support LEAs and schools in designing high-quality school improvement plans informed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each school's assets (and how they're being used), needs (including but not limited to resources), and root causes of underperformance; research on effective schools, successful school improvement efforts, and implementation science; best available evidence of what interventions work, for whom, under which circumstances; and the science of learning and development, including the impact of poverty and adversity on learning. 	<i>Failing to plan is planning to fail.</i>
6	Focus especially on ensuring the highest need schools have great leaders and teachers who have or develop the specific capacities needed to dramatically improve low-performing schools.	<i>Talent matters.</i>
7	Dedicate sufficient resources (time, staff, funding) to align them to advance the system's goals; use them efficiently by establishing clear roles and responsibilities at all levels of the system; and hold partners accountable for results.	<i>Put your money where your mouth is.</i>
8	Establish clear expectations and report progress on a sequence of ambitious yet achievable short- and long-term school improvement benchmarks that focus on both equity and excellence.	<i>What gets measured gets done.</i>
9	Implement improvement plans rigorously and with fidelity, and, since everything will not go perfectly, gather actionable data and information during implementation; evaluate efforts and monitor evidence to learn what is working, for whom, and under what circumstances; and continuously improve over time.	<i>Ideas are only as good as they are implemented.</i>
10	Plan from the beginning how to sustain successful school improvement efforts financially, politically, and by ensuring the school and LEA are prepared to continue making progress.	<i>Don't be a flash in the pan.</i>

Deep Dive into Principle #1 of the CCSSO Principles of Effective School Improvement Systems

1

Elevate school improvement as an urgent priority at every level of the system—schools, LEAs, and the SEA—and establish for each level clear roles, lines of authority, and responsibilities for improving low-performing schools.

If everything's a priority, nothing is.

Deep Dive into Principle #2 of the CCSSO Principles of Effective School Improvement Systems

1 2

Make decisions based on what will best serve each and every student with the expectation that all students can and will master the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, career, and civic life. Challenge and change existing structures or norms that perpetuate low performance or stymie improvement.

Put students at the center so that every student succeeds.

Deep Dive into Principle #3 of the CCSSO Principles of Effective School Improvement Systems

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Principle #3

Engage early, regularly, and authentically with stakeholders and partners so improvement is done with and not to the school, families, and the community.

- Work with schools, families, and community members to build trusting relationships, expand capacity, inform planning, build political will, strengthen community leadership and commitment, and provide feedback loops to adjust as needed.
- Integrate school and community assets as well as early childhood, higher education, social services, and workforce systems to, among other things, help address challenges outside of school.

If you want to go far, go together.

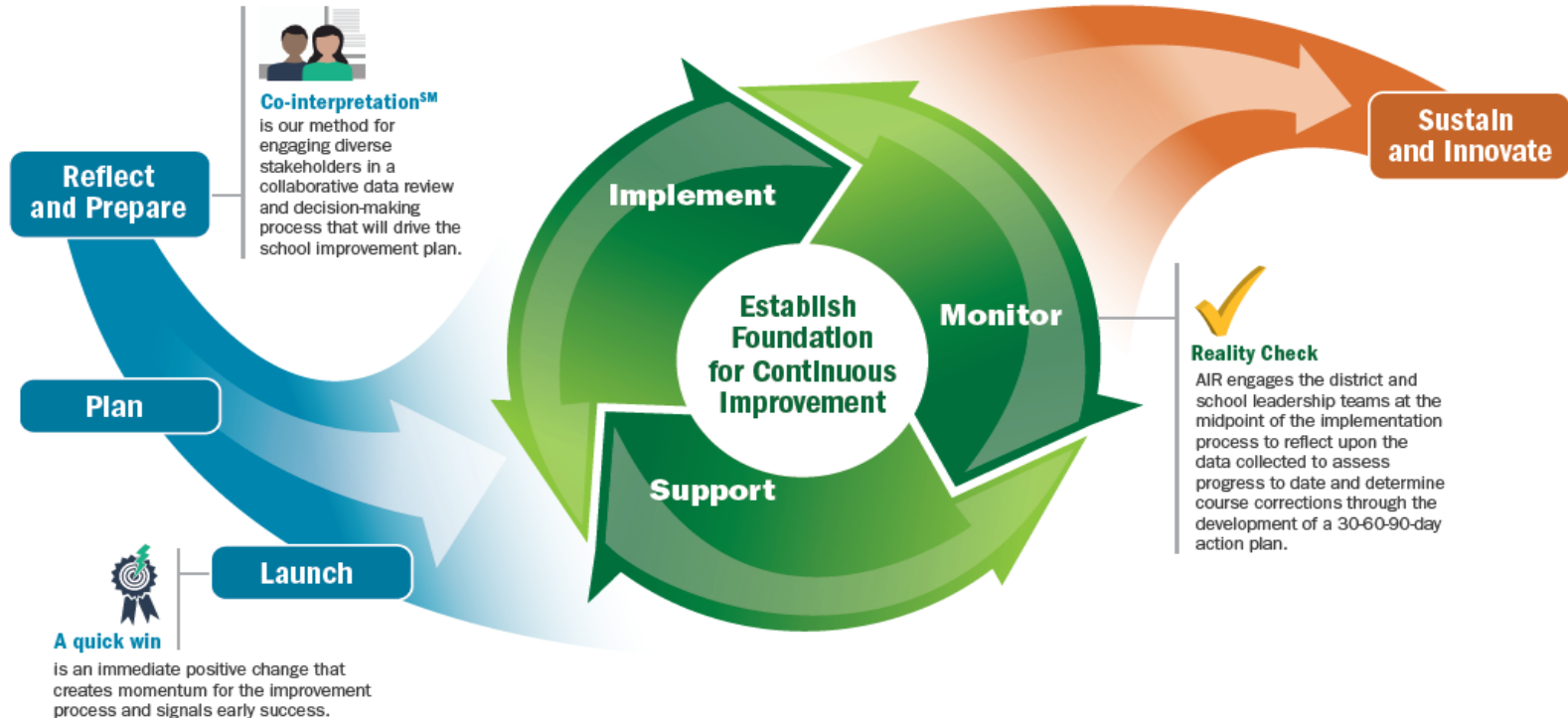
What We Know

Research Findings

- A consistent finding in studies of school turnaround: Strong principals lead schools with dramatic achievement gains.
- A lack of programmatic coherence is one of the most common performance problems in low-performing schools.
- The research and data are clear—teacher quality is the single most important variable impacting student achievement.

Moving to Implementation

School Improvement Path



AIR Framework for Systemic Improvement



Leadership that Drives Change

- Apply improved leadership competencies to lead improvement
- Empower school leadership teams to make equity-based decisions
- Select, support, and retain effective teachers and leaders
- Provide targeted actionable feedback to improve teaching and learning

Student Access and Opportunity

- Develop a coherent instructional guidance system
- Align implementation of curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Utilize multitiered academic supports and interventions to improve outcomes for struggling learners
- Establish and promote equity and excellence for underserved student populations, including low-income students, English learners, and students with disabilities

Educator Effectiveness

- Strengthen educator collaboration and implementation of evidence-based practices through professional learning communities
- Leverage instructional coaching systems of support
- Develop and support teacher leadership opportunities
- Establish and sustain effective teaching conditions

Safe and Supportive Environment

- Create a student-centered learning climate
- Promote comprehensive family and community engagement
- Support social-emotional learning practices
- Apply schoolwide culturally responsive practices to ensure equity

Family and Community Engagement

- Actively work to build and maintain trusting relationships that enable equity for all students
- Cultivate and engage a broad range of stakeholders in the school improvement process
- Leverage partnerships to strengthen opportunities for all students and families
- Develop diverse opportunities to cultivate family and community in supporting student success

Continuous Improvement and Coherence

- Implement and monitor ongoing feedback loops and process
- Maintain an effective data collection system for decision making
- Make data-based decisions that lead to improvement for all students
- Ensure strategies and interventions align with the guiding Theory of Action

Questions?

THANK YOU

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Appendix

ESSA Accountability & SI Determinations

CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools

Category	Which Schools?	When First Identified?	How Often Identified?
Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any high school with <67% graduation rate• Lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools• Non-exiting ATSI schools (Title I only)	SY18-19 <i>(based on SY17-18 data)</i> After state-determined # of years to exit ATSI status	At least every 3 years

Source: *Roadmap to Implementing the CCSSO Principles of Effective School Improvement Systems*, Council of Chief State School Officers (2018)

ESSA Accountability & SI Determinations

CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools

Category	Which Schools?	When First Identified?	How Often Identified?
Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Schools with a “consistently underperforming” subgroup, as defined by the state	After state-determined # of years	Annually

ESSA Accountability & SI Determinations

CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools

Category	Which Schools?	When First Identified?	How Often Identified?
Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TSI schools with a subgroup that—if the subgroup were a separate school—would perform at the level of the bottom 5% of Title I schools	SY18-19*	State-Determined**

Responsibilities for Support & Improvement

Category	Conducts Needs Assessment	Identifies Resource Inequities	Develops Improvement Plan	Approves & Monitors Plan	Awards Any Funding	Sets Exit Criteria	Takes Additional Action
Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)	District	District	District	State	State	State	State
Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI)	N/A*	N/A	School	District	State	District**	District
Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI)	N/A*	School***	School	District	State	State	<u>Non-Title I:</u> District <u>Title I:</u> Becomes CSI

Source: *Roadmap to Implementing the CCSSO Principles of Effective School Improvement Systems*, Council of Chief State School Officers (2018)