

Delaware Department of Education

2019-2020 Accountability & Assessment Waiver – COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions for School Improvement



Q: What does the assessment and accountability waiver mean?

A: All statewide assessments (DeSSA ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies, ACCESS 2.0, and DeSSA Alt) are suspended, school accountability ratings (DSSF) will not be calculated for SY19-20, and no schools will be identified for TSI-2 in November 2020. Data for SY19-20 assessment and accountability will not appear on state and local report cards.

Q: What does the waiver mean for schools identified for CSI or TSI-1 in November 2018?

A: Any school that is identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement or additional targeted support and improvement in the 2019-2020 school year will maintain that identification status in the 2020-2021 school year and continue to receive supports and interventions consistent with the school's support and improvement plan in the 2020-2021 school year.

Q: What if my school was identified as TSI-2 in November 2019?

A: Schools identified for targeted support and improvement (TSI-2) will retain that status throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Schools are to continue implementing their plans as approved by their district offices.

Q: How does the one-year waiver impact planning for 2020-2021 school year?

A: Schools should revise/adjust CSI plans based on completion of action steps, deliverables, and evidence of effectiveness for Year 2 implementation in SY 2020-2021. This may require virtual planning with school leadership teams, district staff and DOE support team.

Q: Can schools carry-over funds from the 2019-2020 plan?

A: The DDOE will follow the guidelines outlined in the CARES Act. More details will be forthcoming.

Q: When will funds be released?

A: The DDOE will follow the guidelines outlined in the CARES Act. More details will be forthcoming.

Q: What is the new timeline for exiting CSI and TSI-1 status?

A: The federal exit timeline will be extended by one year, with SY19-20 still considered the first year of plan implementation.

- Cohort 1 (CSI and TSI-1) performance will now be evaluated against exit criteria in November 2022
- Schools that meet the criteria will exit;
- Schools that do not meet the criteria will continue to receive supports and revise plans with more rigorous interventions;
- TSI-1 schools that do not exit will be elevated to CSI status.

Q: When will new schools be identified for CSI and TSI-1?

A: Schools in the state's bottom 5% in November 2022 (Cohort 2) will first be comprised of Cohort 1 schools that did not exit. Once those schools are identified, the rest of the 5% will be comprised of any new schools that fall below the new threshold

Q: Will DDOE support for currently identified CSI and TSI-1 schools change in any way?

A: No. Technical assistance in revising/completing Year 2 CSI plans (possible virtual sessions) as well as guidance regarding Year 1 carryover funds and distribution of Year 2 school improvement funds will be provided. More details will be forthcoming.

Q: Without state assessment data and DSSF ratings for SY19-20, what annual performance data should schools be analyzing to refine their improvement plans and monitor progress?

A: Data should include, but not be limited to, local assessment data, common assessments, universal screening data, RTI/MTSS data, attendance, class/course grades, climate surveys, and school discipline data (eSchool, DSC, etc.).

Q: Will Reimagining Professional Learning (RPL) Grants be awarded for SY20-21?

A: Yes. Due to the current circumstances in response to COVID-19, and in our effort to support district/school priorities, the DDOE has adjusted the timeline for the 2020-2021 RPL grant application process (see below). In addition, the DDOE is offering Office Hours every Tuesday (9:00-9:45 am or 10:00-10:45 am) beginning April 7th, with the intent to provide virtual TA support for the RPL application process. Please email us at reimaginingPL@doe.k12.de.us to secure an appointment during those Office Hours.

Deadline for Questions	May 15, 2020
Response to Questions Posted by	May 29, 2020
Deadline for Receipt of Proposals	June 5, 2020 (3:00 pm)
Estimated Notification of Award (pending revisions)	July 2020