Webinar Transcript
Comprehensive Support and Improvement
Updated: September 2019

Slide #1:

Welcome to today's webinar on Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools. This webinar is brought to you by District 180 in the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support at the Kentucky Department of Education.

Slide #2:

The agenda for this webinar is on the screen. We will begin with a discussion of the identification process for new Comprehensive Support and Improvement, or CSI, schools. We will then discuss the school improvement regulations related to the school audit, the leadership capacity recommendation, the turnaround team and turnaround plan, and other implications for CSI school leaders. Finally, we will end with a discussion of CSI exit criteria.

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Before we begin, here's a quick note about the school improvement regulation. The current school improvement regulation, 703 KAR 5:280, is undergoing revision. Throughout the webinar, any proposed changes will be denoted in red text.

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Let's begin by discussing the identification process for CSI schools. Kentucky is required to identify schools for Targeted Support and Improvement and Comprehensive Support and Improvement in the fall of 2019. Data from the 2018-19 school year will be used for this mandatory reporting. TSI and CSI schools will be identified at each level, elementary, middle, and high.

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Schools will be identified for CSI status if:

- They are in the lowest 5% of all schools by level,
- They are a high school with a graduation rate below 80%, or
- They fail to exit Additional Targeted Support and improvement (ATSI) status after three years.

As no schools have been identified under the current definition of ATSI status in the past, no schools will be identified as CSI for this reason in 2019.

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Once a school is identified for CSI status, the school and district will undergo an audit called a Diagnostic Review. Districts may choose to have their audit conducted by KDE or they may complete a request for proposals and select an outside agency to conduct their audits. If a district chooses a non-KDE audit team, the team must be approved by the Department and may not include any district employees. The draft regulation stipulates that districts have 30 days from identification to inform KDE who will be conducting their audit.

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Once an audit team is agreed upon, the school must schedule their audit with 45 days of identification. This means that the audit must be on the calendar within 45 days and KDE must be notified of the date of the audit. Audits must include a comprehensive review of the school's current functioning. Audit teams should review the following pieces of information:

- Review of relevant data,
- Review of CSIP/CDIP,
- Stakeholder interviews,
- Direct observation,
- Working condition surveys,
- School council meeting minutes and agendas,
- Any other information deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Education.

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The audit report will include a review of the school's current level of functioning and a recommendation to the Commissioner regarding the school and district leadership's capacity to lead the turnaround process. The leadership capacity recommendation for school principals will be based on the criteria on the screen. The district capacity recommendation mirrors this language exactly.

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Schools identified for CSI status must appoint a turnaround team to lead their turnaround efforts. The district again has the option to utilize services provided by KDE or to select their own team. A district can choose to conduct a request for proposals for a private entity or build their own team using local staff and community partners.

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Once the district selects their team, the proposed regulation stipulates that the district must notify the Department of their decision by submitting the "Notification of Non-Department Turnaround Team" form within fifteen days of receiving their audit findings. Non-KDE teams must be approved by KDE and the department will process notifications within fifteen days of the receipt of the notification form.

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After a school's turnaround team has been selected and approved, the team must work together to create a turnaround plan for the school. The proposed regulation stipulates that the turnaround plan must be submitted to KDE within 30 days of the delivery of the audit findings.

Turnaround plans must be three year plans that include evidence-based practices, a comprehensive list of persons or entities involved in the turnaround process, and a review of resource inequities. Completed plans must be approved by the Superintendent, the local Board of Education, and the Commissioner of Education.

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Here are a few other implications for leaders in CSI schools. First, upon identification as CSI, the authority of the SBDM council is transferred to the Superintendent. Schools should create an Advisory Leadership Team, or ALT, to replace their SBDM council. The names and addresses of ALT members must be submitted to the SBDM database.

Additionally, following the receipt of audit findings, the superintendent may choose to retain or reassign the principal in the school. Similarly, upon recommendation of the principal, the superintendent may also reassign certified staff members.

Finally, the superintendent and principal must collaborate with the turnaround team to design ongoing turnaround training and support and monitoring systems.

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A school can exit CSI status as early as the next school year following their identification. The proposed regulation outlines the following exit criteria:

A school exits CSI status when it no longer meets the criteria for identification and it demonstrates progress on the overall score, which encompasses all indicators included in Kentucky's accountability system as established in 703 KAR 5:270 for the group or groups that served as the basis for identification. Schools identified for CSI status based on their graduation rate will exit the status when their graduation rate reaches 80 percent or higher.

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Thank you for viewing today's webinar. If you have questions regarding Comprehensive Support and Improvement status, please contact the District 180 branch in the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support at (502) 564-2116.