FY 2026 School/District Improvement

Newly Designated Schools in Improvement Status: Information for Districts and Schools

November 3, 2025 & November 4, 2025

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Explain the Statewide System of Success

Relate how the Statewide System of Success can build the capacity of school leaders to implement and sustain effective school improvement practices

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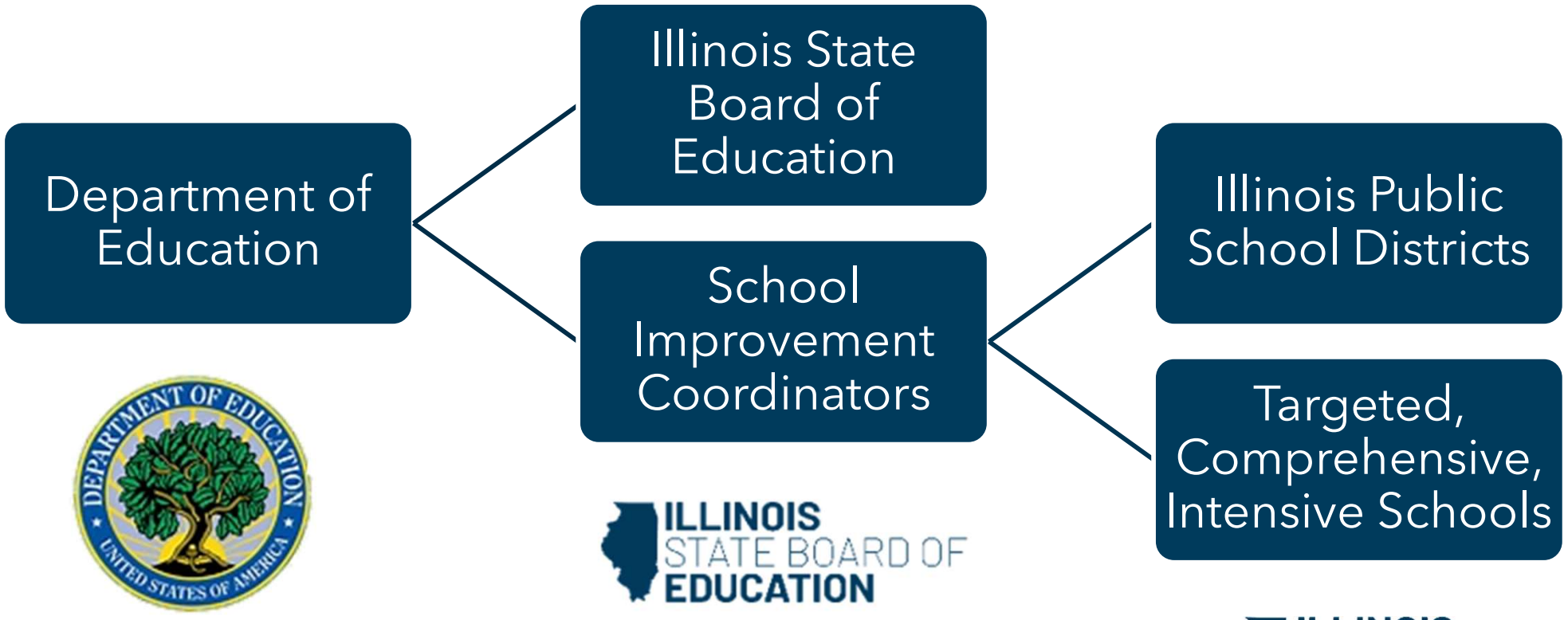
School Improvement Program Org Chart



What is School Improvement Status?

Report Card 2025 (School Year 2025-26)	**Report Card 2026** (School Year 2026-27)	**Report Card 2027** (School Year 2027-28)	**Report Card 2028** (School Year 2028-29)	**Report Card 2029** (School Year 2029-30)
Initial Summative Designation of Targeted, Comprehensive or Intensive	Annual Summative Designation	Annual Summative Designation	Annual Summative Designation	If Commendable or Exemplary, exit school improvement status
Planning Year	Implementation Year 1	Implementation Year 2	Implementation Year 3	If Targeted or Comprehensive, eligible for more rigorous state-determined actions
School Improvement Status	School Improvement Status	School Improvement Status	School Improvement Status	

4 Years – School Improvement Status

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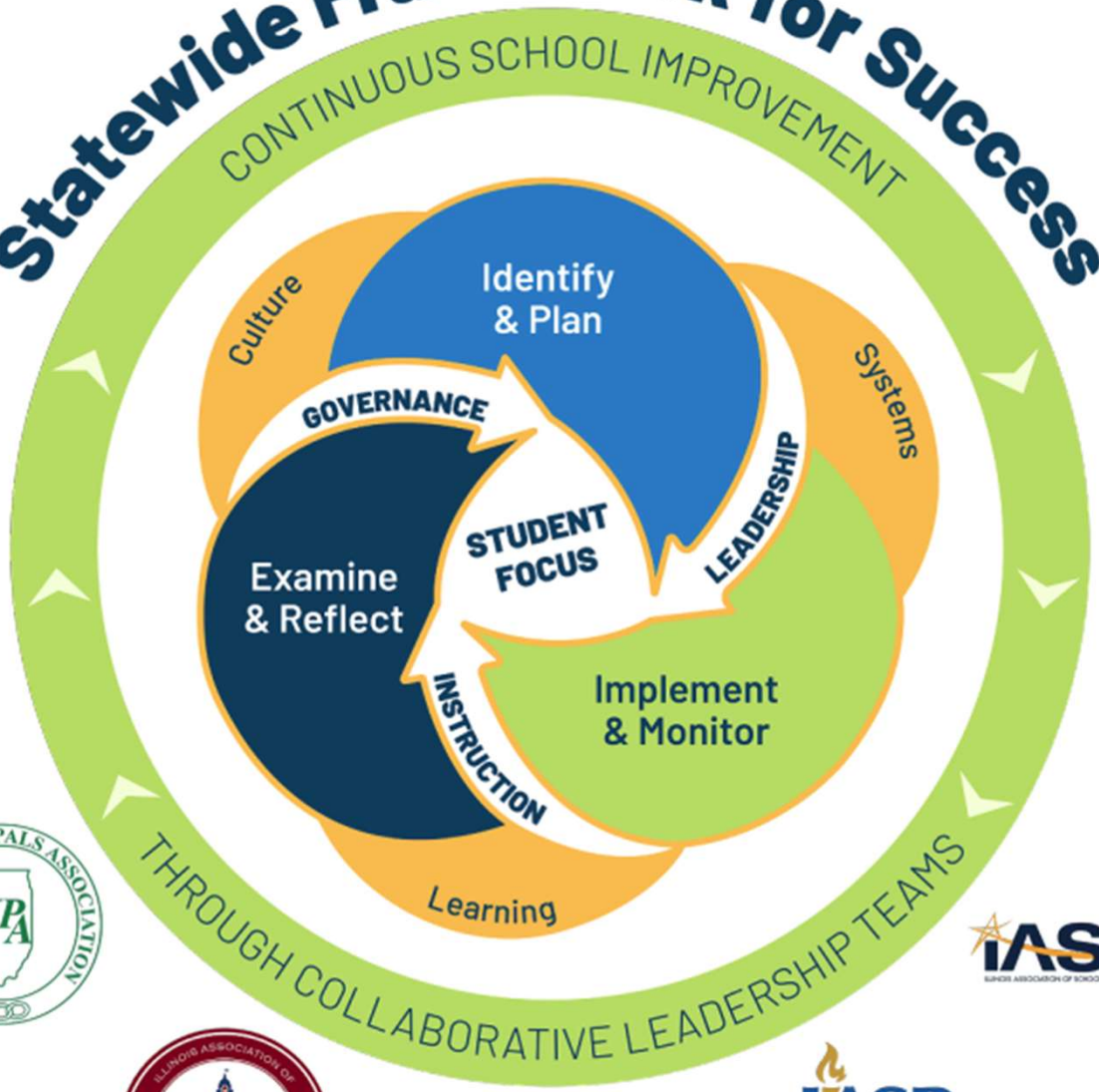
What is Continuous School Improvement?

Collaborative process through which staff and education partners identify strengths and weaknesses of the entire school program.

Use the information as a basis for making deliberate, positive, cohesive, and observable changes in measurable student outcomes.

Statewide Framework for Success



ILLINOIS PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION IPA

IASA

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS ROE|ISC IARSS

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IASB Illinois Association of School Boards

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What is the School Improvement Grant and what can I spend my grant dollars on?

Build the capacity of school leaders to implement and sustain effective school improvement practices.

Comprehensive funds will be utilized to pay for the school-level needs assessment conducted by the American Institute for Research (AIR).

Targeted and Comprehensive might spend grant dollars on compensating staff to work on school improvement plans, reviewing data, conducting vertical and horizontal curriculum articulation activities, paying for an approved learning partner, releasing staff for collaborative planning time and various curriculum materials and supplies.

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Supports for Schools in Targeted Improvement Status

Targeted

- Title I, Part A, Section 1003 School Improvement Grant Funds
- On-demand Learning Series + resources from the School/District Improvement website
- Technical Assistance from the School Improvement Helpline
- Support from the Dept. Lead for School & District Improvement
- Regional Launch meetings that will take place in multiple locations across IL to help outline school improvement work

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Additional Support for Comprehensive Schools

Comprehensive

- Title I, Part A, Section 1003 School Improvement Grant Funds
- On-demand Learning Series + resources from the School/District Improvement website
- Assigned School Improvement Coordinator
- School-level needs assessment supported by AIR
- Schools within CPS will have an assigned staff member from the School/District Improvement Dept.

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Goals for the Planning Year:

- Identify & Plan

School Leadership Team

Build a Community Engagement Group

Conduct a school level needs assessment

Conduct a root cause analysis

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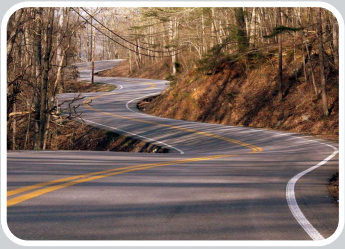
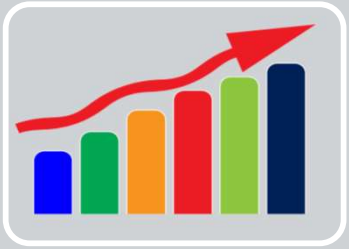
Goals for the Planning Year:

- Implement & Monitor

SMART Goals



Key activities, milestones, timetables, funding sources, people responsible



Local assessment(s) to measure academic progress

Monitor plan

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ESSA Requirement for Resource Allocation Reviews

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires State Education Agencies to conduct Resource Allocation Reviews (RARs) with districts that operate a significant number of schools identified for school improvement status via the Illinois Accountability System (§1111(d)(3)(A)(ii)).

These RARs provide an opportunity for district and school leaders to collaboratively explore current resource allocation practices with ISBE's support.

ISBE selects districts based on the number and percentage of schools in a district that are identified for Intensive, Comprehensive, or Targeted support.

Standards of Effective Resource Allocation

An effective resource allocation system will have the following properties:

- **Equitable**: Provides resources based on the needs of students and schools such that those with higher needs receive additional resources.
- **Transparent**: Provides resources through a simple, well-defined, and clearly documented process such that stakeholders understand how resources are allocated to schools and how resource levels are differentiated.
- **Engages stakeholders**: Allows for input in the budgeting and planning process from various education stakeholders, such as school site leaders and staff, parents, and community members.
- **Aligns with district goals and priorities**: Integrates and aligns with planning and school improvement processes, focuses on improving student outcomes, and offers flexibility to be responsive to new or shifting goals and priorities.

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RAR Structure

Before

- Intro call – program goals, participants, timelines
- Collect and review evidence of practice
- Share data report and protocol with district

During

- Discussion of evidence (provided by district) and data (provided by ISBE)
- Support evaluation of current practice relative to standards

After

- Summary report and resources
- Connect districts to technical assistance aligned with areas of need

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2025-2026 RAR Timeline

Notification (December 1-15)

--ISBE selects districts for RARs. Districts are notified of selection via email.

--Districts schedule 30-minute intro calls with ISBE staff

Preparation (January 2026)

--District and ISBE staff complete an intro call

--District staff deliver requested materials to ISBE

--ISBE prepares a RAR report for the district

Resource Review (February-March 2026)

--District staff and school leaders participate in a RAR

--ISBE shares a post-RAR report along with a resource bank to guide improvements

Follow Up (6 months-1 year later)

--ISBE staff will follow back up with district to gather feedback, assess district changes, and improve the RAR program

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RAR Self-Guided Toolkit & Dashboard

- Last year, ISBE released the RAR Self-Guided Toolkit to make RAR resources available to **all** districts.
- The toolkit includes the **RAR Dashboard**, which hosts visuals on resource distribution, staffing, and equity. New visuals will be published on the dashboard for the FY 2026 RAR cycle.
- The toolkit, dashboard, and supporting materials can all be found on the ISBE Resource Allocation Reviews page.

Questions on RARs?
Email Luke Corry at lcorry@isbe.net and Isabel Monaghan at imonagha@isbe.net

🎯 School Improvement Coordinators

- **Work Directly with Comprehensive Schools/Districts**
- **Expertise in School Improvement**
- **Technical Assistance to ALL Schools**

🎯 School Improvement Webinars

🎯 School Improvement On-Demand Learning Series

🎯 School Improvement Resources

- **Shared Language for School Improvement**
- **Statewide Framework for Success**
- **School Improvement Plan Templates**
- **School Improvement Plan Examples**
- **A Year in the Life of School Improvement**
- **On-Demand Learning Series**
- **Monthly Topics & Tasks**

How can the Statewide Framework for Success assist with School Improvement in your schools?

Requirements for All Schools in Improvement Status

Targeted
Comprehensive

- Rest of State: Complete the Illinois Quality Framework Supporting Rubric; Chicago Public Schools: Complete Foundations
- Use additional data to complete a school level needs assessment
- Identify resource inequities
- The School Improvement Plan includes at least 2 academic student goals
- Evidence-based practices are selected
- The School Improvement Plan is approved by the local Board of Education

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Additional Requirements for Comprehensive Schools

Comprehensive Support and Improvement

- All previous requirements plus,
- School-level needs assessment with AIR
- The School Improvement Plan is approved by the local Board of Education and by ISBE
- The School Improvement Plan is monitored by the LEA and ISBE

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Where can I find more information about school improvement?

> Regional Services & School Improvement > School and District Improvement > **School Improvement for All**

REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
School and District Improvement

School Improvement for All

- Learning Partners
- Resource Allocation Reviews
- School Improvement On-Demand Learning Series
- Continuous School Improvement - Statewide System of Success

REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FOR ALL

The Statewide Framework for Success is a systematic process aimed at enhancing student outcomes through ongoing reflection, adaptation, and refinement. This model is the foundation of school improvement efforts for all schools

Schools in Improvement Status

School Improvement On-Demand Learning Series

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Where can I find more information about school improvement?

REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
School and District Improvement

Continuous School Improvement Process

RESOURCES

- School Improvement Common Language
- School Improvement Fact Sheet
- The Continuous School Improvement Process
- Visual School Improvement Status

VIDEOS AND PRESENTATIONS

Identifying the School Leadership Team

- 5-minute video
- Presentation

Guidance for Facilitating the School-Level Needs Assessment

REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

School Improvement is a continuous, collaborative process through which staff and stakeholders identify strengths and weaknesses of the entire school program and use the information as a basis for making deliberate, positive, cohesive, and observable changes in measurable student outcomes.

The **Statewide System of Support** focuses resources on the schools and districts with the greatest need to build the capacity of school leaders to implement effective school improvement practices. The goal is to enable schools in improvement status to improve student outcomes and exit status.

I am looking for school improvement resources for ...

- All Schools
- a Targeted School
- a Comprehensive School
- an Intensive School

RD OF

School Improvement Resources

> Regional Services & School Improvement > School and District Improvement

REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

School and District Improvement

- Learning Partners
- School Improvement On-Demand Learning Series
- Continuous School Improvement - Statewide System of Support

RESOURCES

- Continuous School Improvement Model
- School Improvement Common Language
- District Strategic Plan Vs. School Improvement Plan

REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has developed a Continuous School Improvement Model , which is a systematic process aimed at enhancing student outcomes through ongoing reflection, adaptation, and refinement. This model is the foundation of school improvement efforts for all schools.

Schools in Improvement Status

School Improvement On-Demand Learning Series

School Improvement On-Demand Learning Series

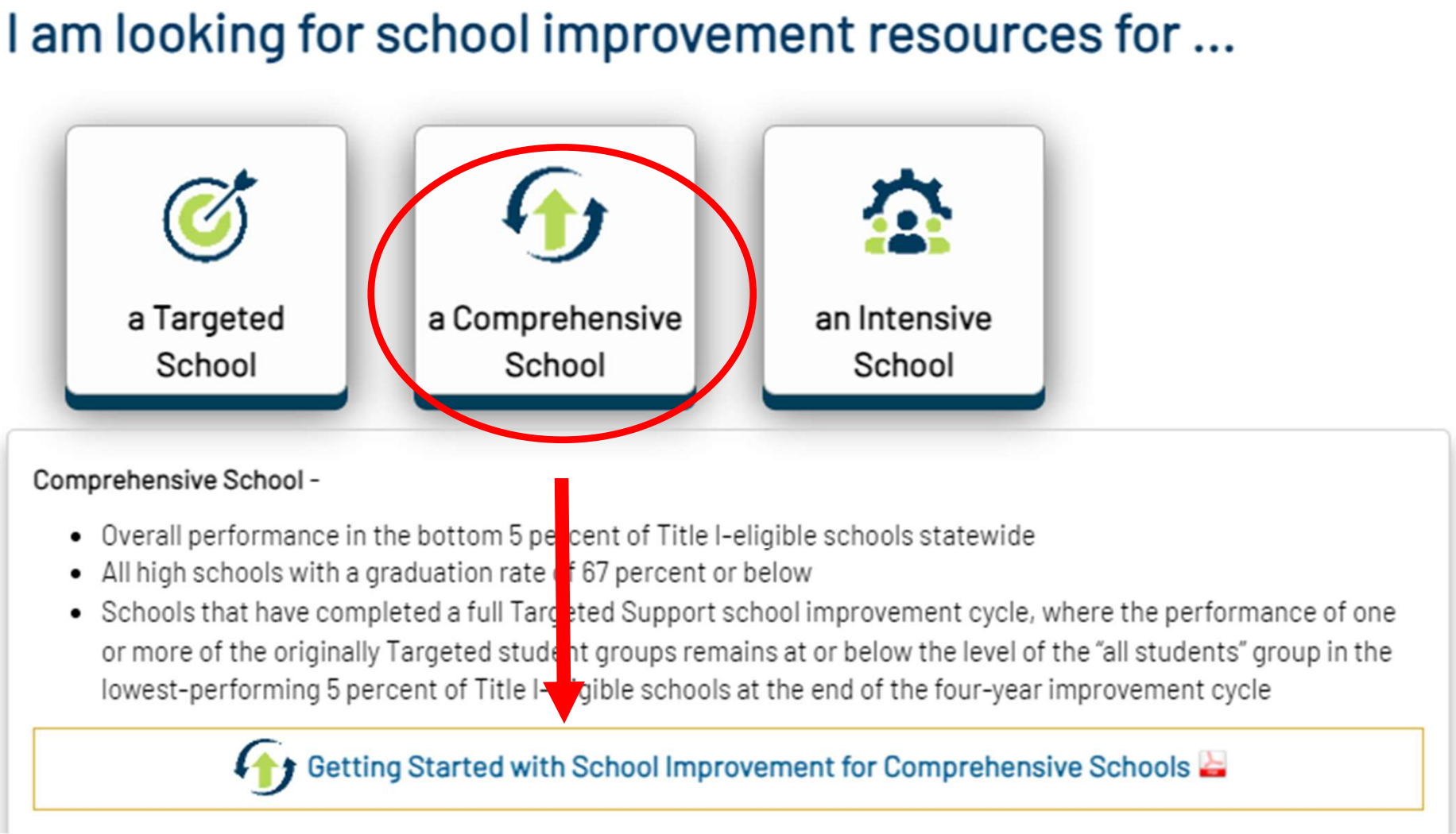
REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
School and District Improvement
School Improvement On-Demand Learning Series

REGIONAL SERVICES & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

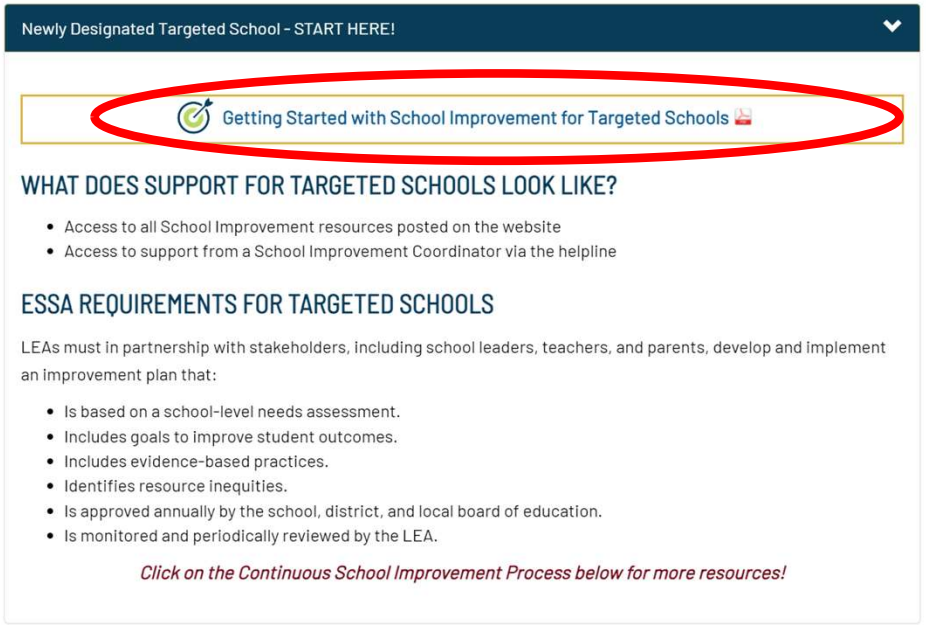
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ON-DEMAND LEARNING SERIES

- An Introduction to Continuous School Improvement (9-minute video) - This video is a brief overview of continuous school improvement and the Statewide System of Supports.
  - Presentation
- A Year in the Life and Monthly Topics in School Improvement (6-minute video) - This video highlights the month-by-month timeline for school improvement called A Year in the Life. The companion resource, Monthly Topics in School Improvement, provides essential questions at the center of school improvement that district and school leaders should use to engage with stakeholders.
  - Presentation
- Identifying the School Leadership Team (6-minute video) - This video will help schools form a School Leadership Team whose focus is to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate the School Improvement Plan.
  - Presentation
- Using Summative Designation Reports to Get Started with School Improvement - Understanding the summative designation report is an important step in getting started with school improvement and identifying local needs. This 14-minute video will assist you in accessing and understanding your school's reports.
- Conducting a School Level Needs Assessment (4-minute video) - This video introduces the school-level needs assessment which is administered during the planning year and is used to launch school improvement planning processes.
  - Presentation
- Engaging in a Root Cause Analysis (6-minute video) - This video will assist the School Leadership Team in conducting a Root Cause Analysis.
  - Presentation
- Building a Stakeholder Advisory Group (4-minute video) - This video provides guidance for forming a Stakeholder Advisory Group and explains the role filled by the SAG.
  - Presentation

Resources for Newly Designated Schools



Checklist for Getting Started



Newly Designated Targeted School - START HERE!

Getting Started with School Improvement for Targeted Schools

WHAT DOES SUPPORT FOR TARGETED SCHOOLS LOOK LIKE?

- Access to all School Improvement resources posted on the website
- Access to support from a School Improvement Coordinator via the helpline

ESSA REQUIREMENTS FOR TARGETED SCHOOLS

LEAs must in partnership with stakeholders, including school leaders, teachers, and parents, develop and implement an improvement plan that:

- Is based on a school-level needs assessment.
- Includes goals to improve student outcomes.
- Includes evidence-based practices.
- Identifies resource inequities.
- Is approved annually by the school, district, and local board of education.
- Is monitored and periodically reviewed by the LEA.

Click on the Continuous School Improvement Process below for more resources!

Targeted Support and Improvement Schools

Checklist for Getting Started

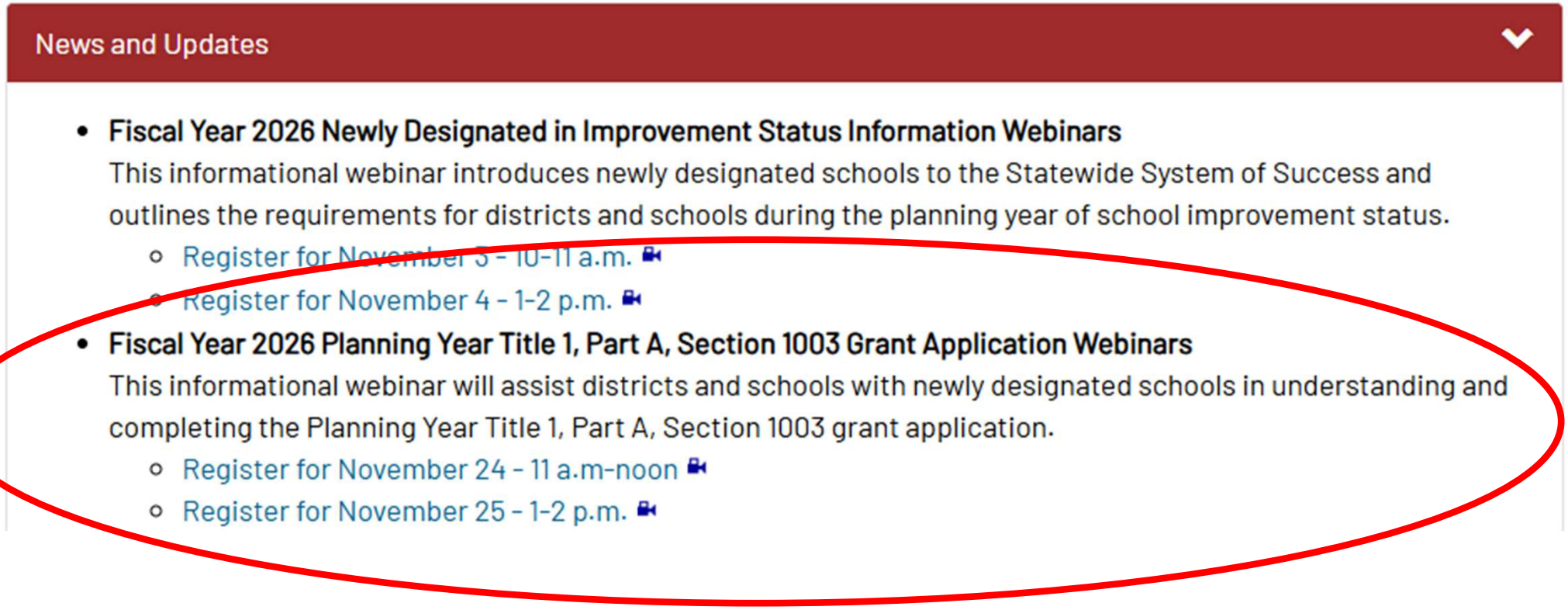
Now that your school has received a targeted designation, your school is required to begin a four-year improvement cycle. During these four years, you will focus on building and/or modifying the systems needed to improve student achievement and performance outcomes and to exit status. Below are the first steps you should take to begin your school improvement work.

- **Be responsive to communication from your assigned School Improvement Coordinator. Review your calendar and be prepared for an initial 60–90-minute meeting.**
- **Register to attend the Planning Year Grant webinar for newly designated schools: sign up here**
- **Increase understanding of your Annual Summative Designation and the Multiple Measures of Student Success.**
- **Tour the School and District Improvement website**
  - **Print A Year in the Life of School Improvement – Planning Year for Targeted Schools (This will be your guide for the entire planning year)**
  - **Print the Continuous School Improvement Process**
- **Utilize the School Improvement helpline for assistance: schoolimprovement@isbe.net or 217-524-1817**
- **Block out time in your schedule to begin viewing the School Improvement On-demand Learning Series 1: Getting Started with School Improvement. Each video in the series runs about 10 minutes in length, and there are seven videos in the series.**

Use the space provided to record your questions and plan your next steps.

Note your questions:	Plan your next steps:

Upcoming Webinar



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What are your next steps?

Attend the FY 26 School Improvement Planning Grant Application Webinar on Nov. 24 (11am-12pm) OR Nov. 25 (1-2pm).

Access the online getting-started checklists for Targeted and Comprehensive Schools.

Access the two Monthly Topics & Tasks and Year in the Life of School Improvement documents to assist you in laying out your plans.

Watch On-Demand Learning Series, that contains short videos to assist with school improvement efforts.

Schools with Comprehensive designations can expect an email from AIR (ILNA@air.org) to initiate the school level needs assessment process.

Schools with Comprehensive designations can expect an email from your assigned School/District Improvement Coordinator to schedule an initial meeting. Schools with a Targeted designation can expect an email from the Dept. Lead.

School Improvement Helpline

schoolimprovement@isbe.net

(217) 524-1817

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Questions & Answers

schoolimprovement@isbe.net

(217) 524-1817

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