

School Improvement Fact Sheet

What is Annual Meaningful Differentiation?	ESSA requires all states to implement a system of Annual Meaningful Differentiation (AMD) to differentiate overall performance and quality of all public elementary and secondary schools. The purpose is to identify the state's lowest and underperforming schools and prioritize funding accordingly.
What is the Annual Summative Designation?	A school's annual summative designation describes how well an individual school is meeting the needs of all its students. The designations recognize schools with strong overall performance across a range of academic and student success indicators. Schools with greatest need receive the most support. Illinois has five summative designations within the statewide school accountability system: Exemplary, Commendable, Targeted, Comprehensive, and Intensive. https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IRC-2024-Improvement-Accountability.pdf
What is School Improvement?	A continuous, collaborative process through which staff/ 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.
What is School Improvement Status?	Defines the up-to four-year term that runs concurrently with the School Improvement grant program. Status begins with an initial summative designation of Comprehensive or Targeted and continues through the remaining part of the year in the planning phase of the grant and is followed by three consecutive years of implementation. Improvement status and grant funding continue for up to four years regardless of changes in annual summative designations because School Improvement is structured to support local efforts over a substantial period of time (i.e., four years). Scaffolded support of sufficient size and longevity is a fundamental tenet of Illinois' Statewide System of Support designed to assist LEAs with establishing a stable foundation to effectively implement selected school improvement practices.
What is the purpose of the Title I, Part A Section 1003 School Improvement Grant?	The purpose of the funding is to build the capacity of school leaders to implement effective school improvement practices. The goal is to enable schools that are engaged in improvement status to raise student achievement, to increase performance outcomes, and to exit status. Funding must be used to develop, implement, and monitor School Improvement Plans (SIPs). A key part of this process is building the knowledge, skills, and competencies of the adults in the school's system. Increasing adult capacity is a critical step to improving outcomes for all students