Nebraska ✓
Approach to School Support and Improvement | Fall 2018

Vision for School Improvement

NDE is in the early stages of determining its approach. It aims to provide tailored support to LEAs and use its 16 regional Educational Service Units (ESUs) to assist LEAs with their improvement plans.

Key Strategies

PROGRESS UPDATES: The federal government approved NE's ESSA plan in June. NDE has convened educators and partners to design the LEA application for SI funding and is developing a needs assessment for CSI schools.

CHALLENGES: No single NDE office oversees SI efforts, making coordination difficult. NDE does not have the capacity it would like to get out into the field to support LEAs and schools. And NDE's late identification of CSI and TSI schools may make the 18-19 SY mostly a planning year.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & COMPLIANCE

- **Templates and rubrics for improvement plans**: Planning to convene committee of stakeholders to design the LEA application for SI funds; creating a rubric for evaluating the applications; and working with a local regional education laboratory on a needs assessment for identified schools
- **Professional development:** Planning to convene school leaders of identified schools monthly to discuss challenges and solutions and to roll out the SI process at local conferences/meetings
- **Guidance**: Planning to include guidance in the LEA application
- **Structures and processes:** N/A

Key Updates

NEW POLICY/REGULATIONS: N/A.

NEW SEA PRACTICE: NDE will (a) revise the LEA application to reinforce state goals for SI, (b) engage stakeholders to develop the LEA application, needs assessment and rubric and (c) administer funds on a competitive basis to LEAs with identified schools.

Funding: **Competitive Grant**
NDE will award school improvement funds on a competitive basis, which is a change from past practice and a result of discussions among NDE leaders.

State and School Needs
SEA
High-quality and consistent communications for schools identified for CSI and more capacity to assist LEAs in the field

SCHOOLS
More support for how to promote high-quality instruction

Implementation Timeline

Fall '18	CSI and TSI schools identified;
Winter '19	State report card released; LEA SI grant application opens
TBD	LEA resource allocation audit