Vision for School Improvement

NMPED offers an evidence-based system of multiple supports for all schools. It is focusing federal resources on both CSI and MRI schools, in partnership with LEAs in which these schools are located. A cornerstone of the work is New Mexico DASH, a web-based action-planning tool that includes a resource library and a proven planning approach for identifying research-based interventions and setting, assessing and adjusting school improvement goals in 90-day increments.

Key Strategies

PROGRESS UPDATES: NMPED connected all schools to NM DASH (Data, Accountability, Sustainability, and High Achievement)—with all districts to implement during 2018-19 SY, identified four MRI schools needing intensive interventions/restructuring and negotiated turnaround plans for each (first state to identify MRI schools—each school is eligible for up to \$2M to support its plan).

CHALLENGES: There is a gubernatorial election this fall (open seat), and school improvement efforts might evolve in coming years.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & COMPLIANCE

- Templates and rubrics for improvement plans: Developed (a) a rubric to evaluate LEA application and (b) needs assessment rubrics [extensive resources on NM DASH portal]
- Professional development: Held convenings to cover changes to the SI application and provided TA on how to implement SI plans
- Guidance: Developed materials to explain process to educators, families and community members and provided guidance to LEAs on (a) ESSA regulations and (b) SI implementation strategies for TSI schools; Not requiring certain evidence-based strategies but curating resources and asking schools to choose one that meets one of top 3 tiers of evidence under ESSA (fourth tier not allowed)
- Structures and processes: Developed or updated processes to (a) provide feedback to LEAs on SI efforts and (b) monitor progress

Key Updates

NEW POLICY/REGULATIONS: No changes needed to state laws or regulations.

NEW SEA PRACTICE: New monitoring process has all CSI schools set 30/60/90-day goals in NM DASH and NMPED cross-team visits at 80-day mark; also, NM has (a) re-aligned LEA application to reinforce state goals for SI, (b) consolidated the LEA school improvement application, (c) identified evidence-based SI strategies and (d) administered funds on a competitive basis to LEAs with identified schools.

Funding: Competitive Grant

NMPED released an RFA inviting all CSI schools to apply, and winning schools received funding in Summer 2018 (not every eligible school applied, and not every applicant was awarded funding); each funded school will be funded at same level for 3 years.

State and School Needs SEA

Sustaining relationships with national and local TA providers

SCHOOLS

New SI approach shifts from prescribed approaches to working with local entities and their leadership in analyzing data, identifying strategies and taking action

Implementation Timeline

2017-18 SY	TSI & CSI schools identified; LEA SI grant application opens
Fall 2018	School report card released; finalize additional monitoring and school visit protocols; full implementation of SI system
Winter 2018	LEA resource allocation audit