

Technical Assistance to SIP Campuses

Technical assistance is provided to Title I campuses identified for the Title I School Improvement Program (SIP) through the School Improvement Resource Center (SIRC) at Region XIII Education Service Center. SIRC is a statewide initiative, funded by TEA, which serves in an advisory capacity to schools in need of improvement that receive Title I supplemental SIP funds.

As campuses move through the school improvement process, SIRC provides technical assistance and resources to assist them in navigating their way and developing a strategic plan focused on areas in need of improvement. A representative from the SIRC office will be contacting school administrators to initiate the technical assistance determined by the campus' level or stage of school improvement.

Below is a basic description of the technical assistance provided to SIP campuses by SIRC.

SIP Introductory Meeting - (Stage 1 - Campuses Entering SIP and Principals New to a SIP)

Following the release of AYP results, campuses entering into School Improvement for the first time will attend a School Improvement Introductory Meeting in Austin, Texas provided by SIRC. The SIP campus principal and a District representative are required to attend this meeting.. Principals new to a SIP campus are also required to attend the Introductory Meeting.

Stage Specific Sessions - (Stage 1 Year 2 and above - Campuses Continuing in SIP)

Following the release of AYP results, principals of campuses continuing in the School Improvement Program are required to complete online Stage Specific Sessions which review the SIP requirements, as well as, new program components. Principals who are new to a campus continuing in SIP are required to attend the SIP Introductory Meeting (described above) in place of these online sessions.

Texas School Improvement Conference - (All Stages)

The campus principal is required to attend the Texas School Improvement Conference (TSI) sponsored by SIRC. This conference in Austin is designed to assist schools through the school improvement process and features schools that have been successful in meeting AYP standards and exiting SIP. Campus and District staff members are encouraged to attend with the principal.

Campus Administrator Mentor Program - (Stage 1 Only)

Campus principals in Stage 1 are required to participate in the Campus Administrator Mentor Program (CAMP) and will receive on-site support, mentoring, and technical assistance from a SIRC approved Professional Service Provider specializing as a Campus Administrator Mentor (CAM).. CAMP is provided by SIRC and the expense for the PSP-CAM is paid directly to SIRC from TEA. By applying for the SIP funding, the campus principal is agreeing to participate in the CAMP mentoring and for TEA to pay for the service directly to SIRC.

Administrative mentoring and coaching are vital components to any job-embedded leadership development program. Experienced educators can help principals develop personal and professional skills necessary for effective leadership. The PSP- CAMs are experienced educators and former administrators who will work closely with the principal to build a relationship of trust, to encourage individual capacity for leadership, and to target school improvement. The PSP-CAM also coordinates their work with the District person directly responsible for the academic performance of students.

Technical Assistance Providers Program (TAPs) - (Stages 2 and above)

Stage 2 and above campuses in SIP are required to participate in the Technical Assistance Provider Program and will receive on-site support and technical assistance of a SIRC approved Professional Service Provider specializing as a Technical Assistance Provider for Stages2-3 or for Stages 4 and Above. The

PSP-TAP serves as a hands-on consultant working with campus administration and faculty to guide the school through the improvement process. The PSP-TAP also coordinates their work with the District person directly responsible for the academic performance of students. The TAP Program is provided by SIRC and the expense for the PSP-TAP is paid directly to SIRC from TEA. By applying for the SIP funding, the campus principal is agreeing to participate in the TAP Program and for TEA to pay for the service directly to SIRC.

The PSP-TAP works to create a collaborative and positive school environment by developing increased leadership capacity in administrators, and by building content knowledge in teachers to establish a teaching-learning community. The PSP-TAP uses a broad knowledge of scientific or evidence based resources and materials to address the range of administrative, curricular, or instructional needs that might be present on the campus.

Supplemental Education Services (Stages 2 and above)

Title I campuses entering Stages 2-5 of improvement must offer Supplemental Education Services (SES). SIRC oversees the approval and renewal process for Supplemental Education Service providers. Technical support is provided to both districts and providers working with SES. SIRC coordinates and provides training and information sessions on the statewide SES management system and the SES evaluation process.

Resources

SIRC supports campuses in School Improvement in many ways including the production of numerous resources. Principal Planning Guides related to the AYP indicators are provided to all principals along with a School Improvement Principal Guideline notebook (it is also provided electronically). SIRC has a website with links to all the different programs described above as well as webinars and materials from previous workshops and conference presentations sorted by topics that support schools in improvement. SIRC provides professional development opportunities for campuses in various stages of improvement as well as co-sponsors trainings with other organizations. Other services may be purchased from other divisions supported by SIRC such as Leadership Coaching, Turnaround Principal Assessment, and Campus and District On site assessments. All information regarding resources is available on SIRC's website.