Professional Service Provider
Selection and Assignment
Guidance Workbook
For Schools in Improvement

2013-2014

Professional Service Provider Network





The Purpose of this guidance workbook is...

....to provide districts, campuses and Education Service Centers across the state guidance on the Professional Service Provider selection, assignment and replacement process.

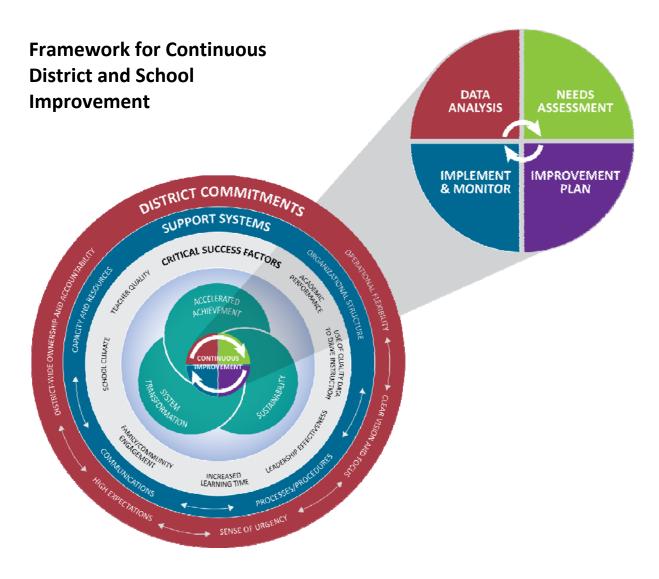
Table of Contents

Overview of Texas Accountability Intervention System	3
Framework for Continuous District and School Improvement	
Continuous Improvement Process	
Professional Service Provider Network	4
What is the Professional Service Provider Network?	
What is the role of the Texas Center for District and School Support (TCDSS) in s	upporting the
PSP Network?	
Overview of the PSP Selection and Assignment Process	5
Data Analysis	6
Needs Assessment	
Plan	8
Implement and Monitor	9
PSP Replacement Process	10
Professional Service Providers Logistical Information	
PSP Hours, Funding and Travel Reimbursement Chart	11
Schedule of PSP Hours	
PSP Registry Instructions	13-17
Contacts	18

Texas Accountability Intervention System

The Texas Accountability Intervention System (TAIS) is designed to establish the foundational systems, actions, and processes to support the continuous improvement of Texas' LEAs and campuses. TAIS distinguishes levels of assistance for schools by incorporating accountability measures into an aligned system of support. This tiered approach to levels of assistance moves beyond the mere classification of schools and provides differentiated support based on identified needs. It provides clearly articulated commitments and provisions incumbent upon a school district for supporting schools.

The framework relies on a synthesis of decades of school improvement research to identify critical success factors and utilizes a cycle of continuous improvement that when fully implemented results in accelerated achievement. Success requires purposeful actions and thoughtful planning based on analyzing data, determining needs, developing targeted plans for improvement, and monitoring the impact of those plans to ensure a focused approach driven by data.



What is the Professional Service Provider (PSP) Network?

Professional educators have been providing external technical assistance to Texas schools in need of improvement for the past ten years. The first PSPs specialized as External Campus Intervention Team members for Academically Unacceptable schools and Technical Assistance Providers for Title I School Improvement Program schools not meeting NCLB AYP standards. Today, the PSP Network includes approximately 350 PSPs who work with underperforming schools receiving interventions in the state and/or federal accountability system and/or the Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) grant.

What is the role of the Texas Center for District and School Support (TCDSS) in supporting the PSP Network?

The Texas Center for District and School Support (TCDSS) coordinates statewide school improvement initiatives of the Texas Education Agency. Located at the Education Service Center Region 13, TCDSS is a part of the Strategic Initiatives division which leverages statewide technical assistance services to support districts and schools not meeting required performance standards under the state and/or federal accountability system. Additionally, TCDSS leads and manages a number of grants and special projects for the Texas Education Agency focused on building statewide capacity for school improvement to ensure all students graduate career and college ready. TCDSS supports the PSP Network by:

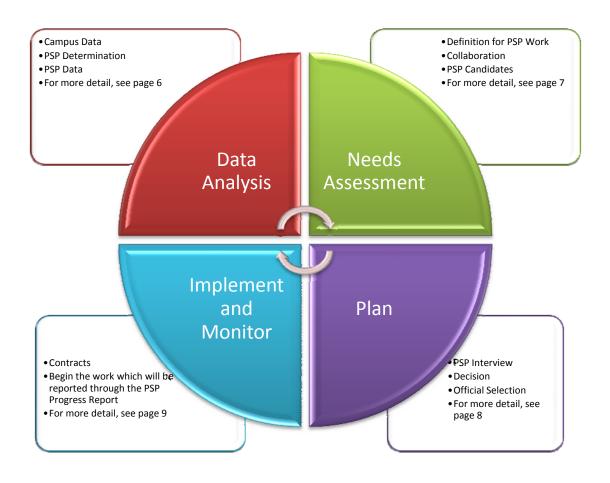
- Recruiting well qualified professional educators
- Maintaining a database of qualified PSPs
- Providing professional development on roles and responsibilities
- Providing on-going guidance to assist the PSPs
- Evaluating the work of the PSPs

The Campus PSP Job description can be found in the Intervention Stage & Activity Manager (ISAM) by selecting PSP Registry in the upper right hand navigation bar. See page 15 of this guidance document for an illustration.

Overview of the PSP Selection and Assignment Process

The state's continuous improvement process is not limited to campus/district improvement planning: it is also an effective way to select a PSP for a campus. A PSP may serve as a required member of the Campus Intervention Team responsible for school improvement (TEC §39.106) for campuses rated *Improvement Required*, or may be assigned to a campus due to poor performance on other accountability targets. The PSP builds the capacity and skill of the campus through technical assistance and support.

In order to choose a PSP, the DCSI and campus leadership, in collaboration with the local ESC, analyze campus data to determine the needs of the campus and subsequently, the PSP knowledge and skills necessary for the development, implementation, and monitoring of the improvement plan. The team will then use the PSP Registry in ISAM to search for possible candidates to interview. The recommendation of a PSP candidate will be communicated to TEA and TCDSS for approval. Upon approval, a contract process will be initiated by either the district or TCDSS as applicable.



Data Analysis

- Before beginning the PSP Placement process, the district must identify its District Coordinator of School Improvement (DCSI). See the DCSI job description at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147495562&menu id=2147483703&menu id=2147483716
- The DCSI will contact the campus leadership and the local Education Service Center (ESC) to begin the PSP Selection/Placement process.
- Relevant campus reports should be gathered.



- •Which campus is Improvement Required?
- •Which index was below standard?
- •Which safeguards need to be addressed?
- •What support does the campus leadership need?

PSP Determination

- •What is the level of intervention required for the campus?
- How has the campus prepared to meet the intervention requirement?
- •Is the campus a Title I campus?
- Has the PSP served on the campus before? (if more than 3 years, a new PSP should be chosen)

PSP Data

• Determine the number of PSP hours by utilizing the Scheduling of PSP Hours guidance found on page 12.

Notes:

Needs Assessment

- The campus leadership and DCSI begin the process of determining the needs of the campus.
- Area(s) of focus for the campus are determined.

Definition for PSP Work

- Identify the PSP selection criteria aligned to the campus areas of focus.
- Define expectations and scope of the PSP work.

Collaboration

- •DCSI, campus leadership and local ESC collaborate to search ISAM PSP Registry to create initial list of potential PSPs from the local and surrounding ESC regions.
- •The ISAM PSP Registry can be located using the TEASE or TEAL login on the TEA website.
- See specific instructions for the PSP Registry in ISAM is found at the end of this document on pages 13-17.

PSP Candidates

- Review the resumés of PSPs from the local and surrounding ESC regions.
- Narrow the list to a small pool of candidates.

Notes:

Plan

- Each PSP is limited to a total of five (5) campus assignments.
- The individual PSP is responsible for not exceeding this limit.

PSP Interview

- •Select potential PSPs to interview.
- •Set up and conduct interviews.
- Campus leadership and DCSI discuss the attributes of each PSP candidate.

Decision

- Choose PSP and secure PSP written acceptance before submitting a PSP for recommendation to TEA and/or TCDSS.
- PSP must follow the 5 campus maximum guideline for the number of campus assignments accepted.

Official Selection

- •Send e-mail to ISAM@tea.state.tx.us AND pspnetwork@esc13.txed.net with PSP recommendation.
- •Use the following form in the subject line:
- PSP Proposal: [Name of Campus], [Name of District]
- •TEA and TCDSS will review the PSP recommendation.
- •PSPs must be approved and assigned by TEA/TCDSS [19 TAC §97.1063(a)]

Notes:

Implement and Monitor



- •For a PSP funded by the LEA, the district will initiate and complete a contract or memorandum of understanding with the PSP.
- Determine PSP hourly rate based on TEA standard.
- Determine number of contract hours

TCDSS Funded PSP

- •For TCDSS funded PSP, TCDSS will initiate an electronic Letter of Agreement (LOA) through the EchoSign*.
- All parties will sign the LOA beginning with the DCSI, campus principal, PSP and TCDSS representative.
- •TCDSS will contract with the PSP to provide services to the campus.

Begin the work

- Establish the first meeting on the campus with the PSP
- •Establish initial schedule of PSP visits to the campus. Refer to recommended PSP schedule information found on pages 12.
- •Begin the Campus Intervention Team team-building process.
- Review the required PSP Progress Report that will be used throughout the year.

*The EchoSign tutorial is available on the PSP Network website at: http://www.psptexas.net/psp resourcesforms.html

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PSP Replacement Process

In special situations, there are occasions when a PSP must be replaced during the course of the school year. In order to provide a smooth transition to a new PSP, the following procedure will be applied:

Notifications

- •The DCSI , campus leadership and/or PSP must contact TEA and/or TCDSS in writing.
- •In the written request include a detailed explanation with evidence.
- •If a PSP resigns or takes a leave of absence, TEA and/or TCDSS will notify the campus principal and DCSI.

Collaboration and Determination

- •TEA and/or TCDSS will collaborate to investigate.
- •TEA and/or TCDSS will make a determination in collaboration with the district, campus leadership and PSP.

Interview and Selection

- •TCDSS provides candidate pool of 2-3 PSPs to DCSI and campus leadership.
- •DCSI and campus leadership conduct interviews.
- •DCSI notifiesTEA and TCDSS of PSP choice.
- •TCDSS checks availability and obtains acceptance from PSP.
- •TCDSS notifies campus leadership and DCSI.

Final Steps

- •If the PSP is funded through TCDSS, TCDSS will initiate a LOA for all parties to sign electronically. TCDSS will contract with the PSP to provide services to the campus.
- •If the PSP is funded through the LEA, the LEA will initiate and finalize the contract with the PSP.

Professional Service Providers Hours, Funding and Reimbursement 2013-2014

The PSP's Contract or Memorandum of Understanding with a campus MUST begin September 1 and end August 31. Please note that the number of hours may be altered by TCDSS or TEA due to the results of appeals, NCLB funding allocations, campus needs, and/or program changes. The contract period and hours for a Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) PSP may vary depending on grant requirements.

LEA contracts with PSP are based on TEA cost guidance of \$75 per hour plus meals, travel, and/or expenses. LEA Hourly Rate & Travel Costs are reported monthly through the PSP Progress Report; meals, travel, and/or expenses are not included in the hourly stipend.

*TCDSS contracts with PSPs for \$112 plus travel. TCDSS Hourly Rate includes meals and PSPs are not paid for travel time.

The Texas Education Agency collects cost information to report to the legislature on an annual basis. This information is collected and analyzed from the monthly progress reports. All cost data is maintained by the Texas Education Agency.

* TCDSS funded PSP is dependent on AYP guidance, final waiver determinations and/or federal grant funding.

Notes:						

Schedule of PSP Hours

LEAs/Campuses will determine scheduling of contracted hours based on needs using the guidelines from the PSP Network Handbook which states:

PSPs contracting with TCDSS and/or LEA are issued a contract for a specific number of hours per campus. The contract is for 12 months, September 1st through August 31st.

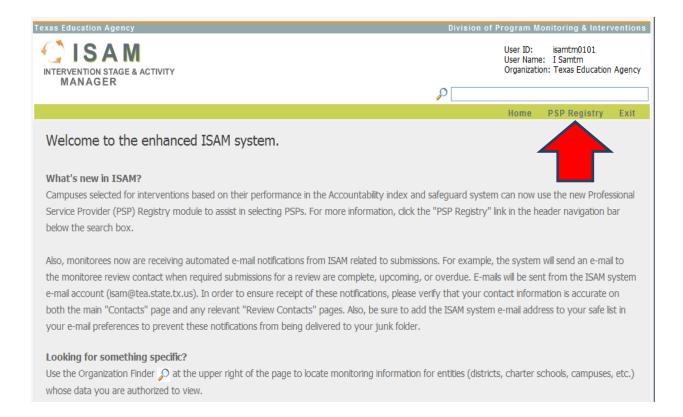
The PSP is:

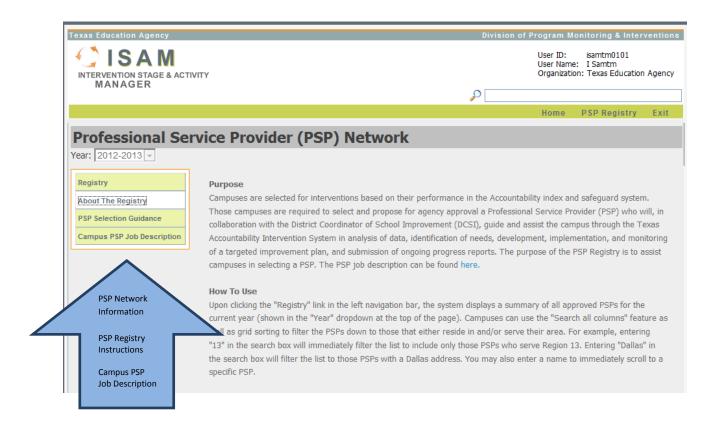
- required to schedule time on campus using contract hours for the entire 12 month period of the contract or LOA.
- expected to use more hours in the fall and winter but no fewer than 3 hours per month in the spring and summer months.
- expected to work with the principal to develop an appropriate schedule of services including on and off site services.
- expected to deliver on site services each month unless there is an agreement with the
 principal not to be on the campus one or two non-consecutive months, excluding
 August. PSP is still expected at a minimum to remain in contact with the principal by email or phone.
- required to remain available to the principal when providing off-site services (i.e., correspondence with campus/LEA staff and/or other entities on specific work related to the campus; research and data analysis for the campus; preparation and planning for PD for the campus); *PSP Progress Report documentation is required for off-site/indirect services, if claiming for payment.

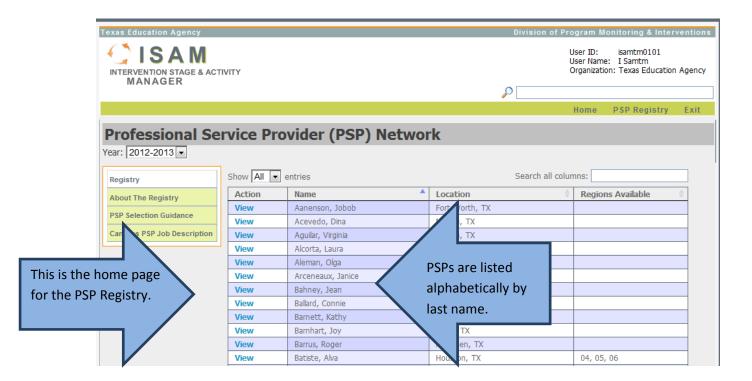
^{*}Note: See the PSP Network Handbook (http://www.psptexas.net/index.html) for more information regarding required documents and procedures.

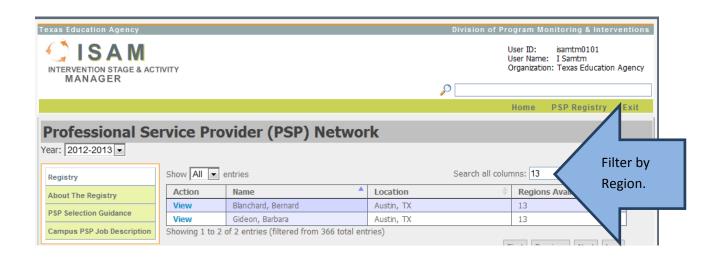
PSP Registry Instructions

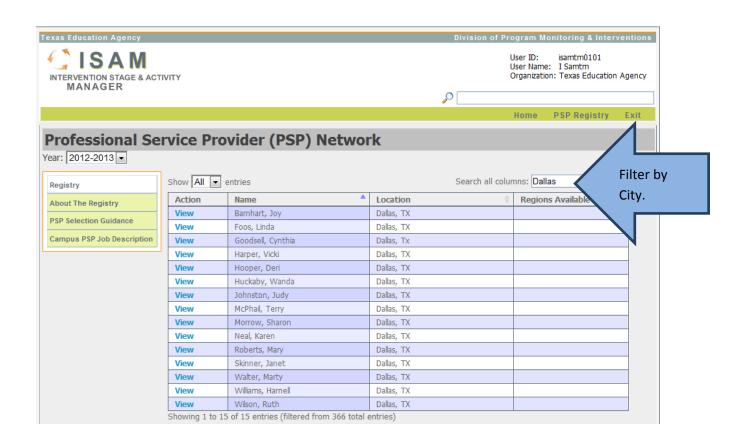
Log into the ISAM system and locate the PSP Registry in the upper right hand of the screen –Click.

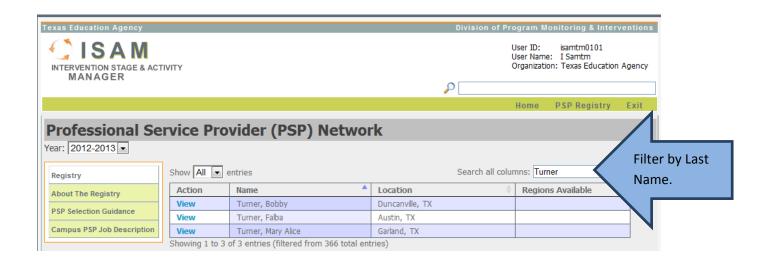


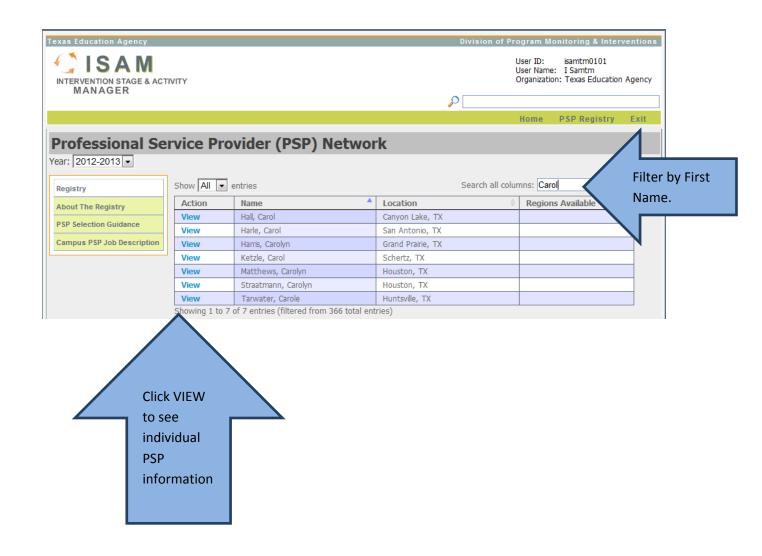


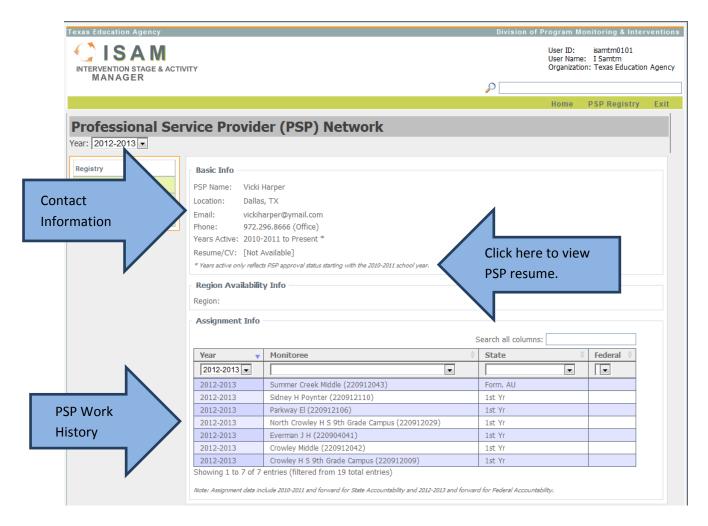






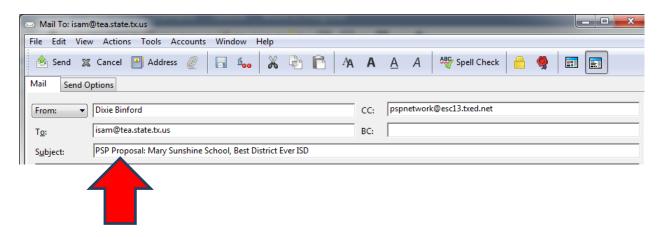






When you have made your selection, e-mail ISAM@tea.state.tx.us and pspnetwork@esc13.txed.net with specific PSP choice.

Use the following e-mail protocol for the subject line:



Contacts:

Texas Education Agency

ISAM Questions:
Jihan Hendley – Program Specialist
ISAM@tea.state.tx.us
Phone 512.463.5226

PSP Cost Analysis Questions: Morgan Migl – Management Analyst ISAM@tea.state.tx.us Phone 512.463.5226

Texas Center for District and School Support

PSP Network Team

General Information: pspnetwork@esc13.txed.net

Michael Hanson - Coordinator <u>Michael.hanson@esc13.txed.net</u> Phone 512.919.5133

John Andrews – Education Specialist John.andrews@esc13.txed.net Phone 512.919.5114

Dixie Binford – Education Specialist Dixie.binford@esc.13.txed.net
Phone 512.919.5174

Jennifer Irrobali – Project Planner Jennifer.irrobal@esc13.txed.net Phone 512.919.5458