

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions *Updated August 31, 2020*

Office of School Improvement

- 1. What is the expectation for presentation of the Monthly Update for schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), Additional Targeted and Support and Improvement (ATSI), Schools At Risk (SAR) and School Improvement Grant (SIG)?**

During the 2020-21 school year, the requirement for the Board Update will be modified. While it is deemed good practice to inform local school boards of the progress being made by its schools identified for school improvement on a monthly basis, and we encourage districts to do so, the frequency for submitting a report on the progress of its identified schools has been modified to October 2020, March 2021, and June 2021.

This means that an update must be provided to the local school board and reflected on the school board agenda, utilizing the template provided by the MDE, and uploaded into the document library in MCAPS in October 2020, March 2021, and June 2021.

- 2. What form will districts use this year for board updates?**

Districts are required to use the MDE form for Board Updates during the 2020-21 school year.

- 3. When will monitoring for 1003 School Improvement take place?**

Districts will be monitored virtually beginning this fall. A webinar will be conducted by the Office of School Improvement to provide guidance on the virtual monitoring that will take place. The webinar will also address the process for on-site monitoring in the event that on-site visits resume during the 2020-21 school year.

- 4. If an LEA wants to know the status of its MCAPS school improvement application or revision, who will the district contact during the time the MDE is working teleworking?**

Please contact your assigned School Improvement contact. The contacts for the school improvement application can be found in MCAPS and on the on the OSI webpage at the link provided [MCAPS District Contact List - School Improvement Applications](#). In addition, district level MCAPS personnel will continue to be updated through the MCAPS notification system when changes have been made to the district's school improvement application.

- 5. If an LEA who implements a School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003g wants to submit or know the status of a school's revision, has specific questions on**

grant implementation or established deadlines, who will the district contact during the time the MDE is working remotely?

The School Improvement Grant (SIG) Officer should contact Shakinna Patterson at spatterson@mdek12.org.

6. My district reconfigured schools for the 2020-21 school year. What are the expectations:

- A. If a different school other than the one originally assigned the designation was assigned the school improvement designation because of the reconfiguration? The school must implement the requirements associated with its designation (please refer to the pages 36-37 of the MS Succeeds Plan [MS Succeeds - Consolidated State Plan](#)). The school must also notify parents of students in the identified school of its designation. A sample notification can be located by clicking [here](#).
- B. If the school retained the school improvement designation after the reconfiguration. The school must continue to implement the requirements associated with the identification.

7. How will School Improvement Coaches support schools during the 2020-21 school year?

School improvement coaches are assigned to all CSI schools and to any ATSI school with a failing 2019 accountability rating. During the first semester of the 2020-21 school year, coaching support will be provided virtually through Microsoft TEAMS. The method of delivery for the second semester will be determined based on the status of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Mississippi. Coaches will officially contact superintendents and principals of schools to which they have been assigned in September 2020.

8. Were Competitive School Improvement Grants (SIG) granted a waiver to extend funds under the COVID-19?

No, Cohort IV Competitive School Improvement Grant (SIG) awardees were not granted a waiver extension under the COVID19 Guidance by the USDE to obligate and liquidate the last year of funds after September 30, 2021. USDE requires all SIG funds to be liquidated by September 30, 2021.

Due to COVID19, the MDE did extend the ability of Cohort IV schools to obligate remaining Year 3 funds by December 31, 2020 and liquidate by February 12, 2021.

9. Which Title I School Improvement 1003 funds were covered by the COVID19 waivers from USDE?

The only 1003 grant funds covered under the USDE waivers were school improvement 1003 funds awarded for the 2018-19 school year (FY19). The waiver extends the obligation date to September 30, 2021 and liquidation to December 31, 2021.

10. What is the period of availability for FY20 School Improvement Funds? 1003 grant funds awarded during the 2019-20 school year (FY20) must be obligated by September 30, 2021 and liquidated by December 31, 2021.