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# 2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act Comprehensive Support and Improvement Local Educational Agency Application for Funding

**Due: January 20, 2021**

## Application Overview

### Purpose

Section 1003 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides resources and assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) to improve student outcomes in schools that meet the criteria for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI).

The ESSA requires LEAs to submit an application in order to receive ESSA, Section 1003 funds for CSI. As a condition of funding, the LEA must partner with stakeholders, including school principals and other school leaders, teachers, and parents to locally develop and implement a plan for the school to improve student outcomes. School planning and LEA support and assistance for each school receiving comprehensive support are incorporated into the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) processes.

For Federal guidance on Supplement, not Supplant for school improvement, see question 29a, pages 21 to 22 located at <https://go.usa.gov/xdcPV>.

**The California Department of Education (CDE) is accepting applications from LEAs with schools that met the criteria for CSI on the 2019 California School Dashboard (Dashboard).**

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### Statutory Authority

ESSA Section 1003–School Improvement (<https://go.usa.gov/xfAWr>), pages 9 through 11.

ESSA Section 1111(d)(1)–Comprehensive Support and Improvement (<https://go.usa.gov/xfAC2>), pages 33 through 35.

Senate Bill 115 Budget Act of 2020 SEC. 61 Item 6100-134-0890 of Section 2, of Schedule 2 located at <https://go.usa.gov/xG3nb>.

### Grant Information

The Budget Act of 2020 appropriated $129,415,000 in ESSA, Section 1003 local assistance funding to LEAs for CSI. The project period for this application begins February 15, 2021, and ends on September 30, 2022. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds are available to each eligible LEA that submits an approvable application and will be allocated based on a formula. The formula takes into consideration the total number of schools, statewide, that were identified for CSI on the 2019 Dashboard. FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds must be used to develop and implement a CSI plan for each identified school in the 2021–22 school year.

### Eligibility Requirements

On March 27, 2020, California received approval for a waiver of the school identification requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as reauthorized by the ESSA. The waiver addresses accountability and school identification requirements in sections 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D) and temporarily suspends the state’s federal requirement to identify CSI and other school support categories under the ESSA for the 2020–21 school year. As such, schools will not be identified for or have the opportunity to exit a school support category on the 2020 Dashboard. Schools that were identified as a result of the 2019 Dashboard for CSI will retain their assistance status in the 2020–21 school year. A copy of the full waiver is available on the CDE ESSA web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/es/documents/covid19waiverresponse.pdf>.

In order to continue to provide support to those LEAs with schools that are eligible for CSI, only LEAs with schools that were identified for CSI on the 2019 Dashboard can apply for FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funding. An LEA is defined as a county office of education, school district, or direct-funded charter school.

Schools were eligible for CSI on the 2019 Dashboard if they were a public high school with a graduation rate below 68 percent or, at least, the lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools.

CSI criteria and program information are located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/csi.asp>.

### Allowable Activities and Costs

As a condition of funding, the LEA must partner with stakeholders, including school principals and other school leaders, teachers, and parents to locally develop and implement a CSI plan in the 2021–22 school year for each school meeting the criteria for CSI.

School planning and LEA assistance for each school that meets the criteria for CSI will be incorporated into the LCAP and SPSA planning processes for the 2021–22 school year. If FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds for CSI are used to implement actions/services to meet a goal articulated in the LCAP, those CSI funds must be included in the LCAP. FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds for CSI that are distributed from the LEA to the school must be included in the 2021–22 SPSA. In addition, CSI interventions/strategies/activities must align to the goals, actions, and services identified in the LEA’s LCAP.

Under the ESSA, CSI plans are required to be evidence-based. Section 8101(21)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Act, as amended by the ESSA, defines an evidence-based intervention as being supported by *strong evidence, moderate evidence, promising evidence,* or evidence that *demonstrates a rationale.* ESSA, Section 1003 funds require the use of “evidence-based” interventions that meet higher levels of evidence. The table below lists ESSA’s top three levels of evidence.

**Demonstrate a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes:**

| **Evidence Level** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Level 1: Strong Evidence | Based on at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study |
| Level 2: Moderate evidence | Based on at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study |
| Level 3: Promising Evidence | Based on at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias |

The United States Department of Education’s non-regulatory guidance on evidence-based interventions is located at <https://go.usa.gov/xdcEU>.

ESSA, Section 1003 funds must be prioritized and focused towards the area(s) identified for improvement for each school, based on their needs assessments and root cause analysis. Funds can only be spent on evidence-based interventions/ strategies/activities, directly related to the following CSI improvement plan development and implementation efforts:

* Building capacity
* Partnering with stakeholders
* Conducting needs assessments and root cause analysis
* Selecting and implementing evidence-based interventions/strategies/activities
* Using data and outcomes to monitor and evaluate improvement efforts
* Reviewing/identifying and addressing, through implementation of the CSI plan, resource inequities, which may include a review of LEA- and school-level budgeting

Federal planning requirements are established in the California *Education Code* Section 64001 (<https://go.usa.gov/xdcE6>) and the Approved LCAP template on the CDE web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lc/>.

Planning instructions for the LCAP and SPSA are located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lc/>. CSI program requirements and information are located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/csi.asp>.

### Disallowable Activities and Costs

The use of federal funds, including ESSA, Section 1003 funds must be consistent with the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. OMB information is located at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grant-policies/omb-uniform-guidance-2014.html>.

In addition, the California legislature stipulated in Senate Bill 115 that ESSA, Section 1003 funds shall not be expended to hire additional permanent staff.

For Federal guidance on Supplement not Supplant for school improvement, see question 29a, page 21 to 22 located at <https://go.usa.gov/xdcPV>.

### Grant Reporting Requirements

Actual expenditures for each performance period within the grant period shall be reported to the CDE as part of regular grant management and administration. The table below details reporting information and timelines for FY 2020 CSI funds.

| **Report Name** | **Reporting Data** | **Performance Period** | **Reporting Due Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Report 1 | * Funding Plan Adjustment * Budget Summary * Expenditures | February 15, 2021, to June 30, 2021 | July 31, 2021 |
| Report 2 | * CSI Plan Approval/Adoption Dates * Expenditures * Federal Report | July 1, 2021, to September 30, 2021 | October 31, 2021 |
| Report 3 | Expenditures | October 1, 2021, to January 31, 2022 | February 28, 2022 |
| Report 4 | Expenditures | February 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022 | July 31, 2022 |
| Final Report and Grant Evaluation | * Final Expenditures and Closeout Report * Grant Performance Report * Federal Report | July 1, 2022, to September 30, 2022 | October 31, 2022 |

In addition to standard expenditure reporting requirements for each performance period, the LEA must submit a Budget Summary and Budget Narrative with Report 1. The Budget Summary will combine LEA- and school-level budget amounts by Object Code for each authorized funding category, as applicable.

In addition, Report 2 requires the LEA to report the date the CSI plan was approved/adopted by the school and LEA. The Final Report and Grant Evaluation requires the LEA to submit final expenditure data, a Final Budget Summary, and a Grant Performance Report. The CDE will provide additional guidance for reporting requirements. If the CDE does not receive the required reports, funding may be delayed, or the CDE may bill the LEA to recover funds distributed to the LEA.

### Apportionments

The first apportionment is 25 percent of the total LEA allocation and is based on an approved 2020‒21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding. Subsequent apportionments for each grant performance period are based on claimed expenditures less prior cumulative payments.

Note: Reported expenditures are used for the purpose of calculating the LEA’s apportionment. The use of federal funds must be consistent with the OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; ESSA requirements, and requirements in the 2020‒21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding.

The acceptance and approval of reported expenditures do not preclude the CDE, in any way, from conducting program monitoring or audits.

The CDE will process apportionments approximately one month after the final date of each reporting period.

### Grant Monitoring

LEAs and schools that receive FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds for CSI will be monitored through the CDE’s Federal and Program Monitoring process.

### Application and Funding Results Timeline

| **Activity** | **Due Date** |
| --- | --- |
| Funding Profile Posted to the CDE Web Page | December 2020 |
| 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding  Release Date (GMART) | January 6, 2021 |
| 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding  Webinar Walk-through | January 7, 2021,  at 10 a.m. |
| 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding Due to the CDE | January 20, 2021, by  4 p.m. |
| 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding  Review by CDE Staff | January/February 2021 |
| Funding Results and Schedule of Apportionments Posted to the CDE Web Page | March/April 2021 |

### Technical Assistance

The CDE will conduct a webinar to walk through the process to complete the 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding. The webinar will be conducted on January 7, 2021, at 10 a.m. Communications regarding the webinar will be emailed to eligible LEAs.

### Application Process

The 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding is an online application that includes six sections: (1) Intent to Apply; (2) General Assurances, Certifications, Terms, and Conditions; (3) Local Educational Agency Applicant Information; (4) Narrative Responses; (5) 2020–21 Comprehensive Support and Improvement Preliminary Funding Plan; and (6) Signatures.

In order to receive ESSA, Section 1003 funds, each eligible LEA must complete and submit the 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding to the CDE by the date specified in the Application and Funding Results Timeline. The LEA will receive email confirmation upon submission. The CDE will review each LEA application. If the LEA wishes to revise its online application after submission, the LEA must resubmit the application prior to the application due date, as specified in the Application and Funding Results Timeline.

The CDE is not able to modify the application information after submission. Incomplete or late applications may delay funding.

**2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act  
Comprehensive Support and Improvement  
Local Educational Agency Application for Funding**

Section 1: Intent to Appl**y**

Each local educational agency (LEA) with schools that met the criteria for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) on the 2019 California School Dashboard must submit the 2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) CSI LEA Application for Funding. Any LEA that chooses to not apply for fiscal year (FY) 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funding for CSI is asked to submit this application to the California Department of Education (CDE) to communicate its intent. This will allow the CDE to reallocate the amount of funds available to those LEAs choosing to apply for funding.

Pursuant to Section 1111(d)(1)(B) of the ESSA, upon notification from the CDE, the LEA shall, for each school identified by the CDE and in partnership with stakeholders, locally develop and implement a plan for the school to improve student outcomes.

Choosing not to accept ESSA, Section 1003 funds **does not** relieve the LEA from meeting its statutory obligations under ESSA, Section 1111(d)(1). FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds provides resources and assistance to the LEA with schools meeting the criteria for CSI. FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds must be used to develop and implement a CSI plan for each eligible school in the 2021–22 school year.

**The LEA must indicate if it intends to apply for funding.**

* The LEA **intends** to apply for FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds. By checking this box, the LEA must complete the remaining five sections of this application.
* The LEA **does not intend** to apply for FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds. By checking this box, the LEA understands its statutory obligation to meet the requirements of the ESSA, Section 1111(d)(1). The LEA will be redirected to Section 6 to sign and submit this application.

**2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act  
Comprehensive Support and Improvement  
Local Educational Agency Application for Funding**

## Section 2: General Assurances, Certifications, Terms, and Conditions

General assurances, certifications, terms, and conditions are requirements of applicants and sub-grantees as a condition of receiving funds. The signed grant application submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE) is a commitment to comply with the general assurances, certifications, terms, and conditions associated with the grant.

### General Assurances and Certifications

The general assurances and certifications are available on the CDE Funding Forms web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/fm/generalassurances2020.asp>. Applicants do not need to sign and return the general assurances and certifications with the grant application. Instead, applicants must download the general assurances and certifications to keep them on file and available for compliance reviews, complaint investigations, or audits.

### Terms and Conditions

The 2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Local Educational Agency (LEA) Application for Funding must be electronically signed by the authorized agent of the LEA and submitted to the CDE using the online application.

The first apportionment will be processed upon review and approval of the 2020–21 ESSA CSI LEA Application for Funding. Subsequent apportionments will be processed based upon approved expenditures reported by the LEA.

All fiscal year 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds must be encumbered, expended, and legally obligated within the dates designated and must not exceed the maximum amount indicated in the Apportionment Letter.

In addition, the LEA agrees to comply with the following state and federal program terms and conditions:

1. Utilize the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and School Plan for Student Achievement processes to locally develop and implement a CSI plan in the 2021–22 school year that meets federal requirements for each school receiving funds under Section 1003 of the ESSA for CSI.
2. Align improvement strategies and activities to the goals, actions, and services in the LEA’s LCAP.
3. Monitor schools receiving Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds for CSI.
4. Use a rigorous review process to recruit, screen, select, and evaluate any external partners, other than the county office of education and other agencies within the state system of support that the LEA would partner with to develop and implement the plan for CSI.
5. Align other federal, state, and local resources to carry out activities supported with funds received.
6. Modify practices and policies as appropriate, to provide operational flexibility that enables full and effective implementation of the plans to improve student outcomes in schools meeting the criteria for CSI.
7. Assure that each school that the LEA serves will receive all of the state and local funds it would have received in the absence of FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds.
8. Ensure that FY 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds are spent as indicated in this application, and agree that funds will be used only to provide support to the school/s meeting the criteria for CSI, including locally developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and approving plans for the school to improve student outcomes.

**2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act  
Comprehensive Support and Improvement  
Local Educational Agency Application for Funding**

## Section 3: Local Educational Agency Applicant Information

SAMPLE Unified School District (County: SAMPLE)

LEA Address:

Preliminary FY 2020 LEA Allocation: $$$

County/District Code 00 00000

NCES: XXXXXXX DUNS: XXXXXXXX

Please verify if the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Applicant Information listed above is accurate then check the appropriate box below. Applicant Information can be verified on the California School Directory web page located at [https://www.cde.ca.gov/schooldirectory/.](https://www.cde.ca.gov/schooldirectory/)

The Preliminary Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 LEA Allocation can be verified on the CDE CSI LEA Fiscal Information web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/csileafiscalinfo.asp>.

LEAs can verify their Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number through the Online Public Update for Schools web page located at <https://www3.cde.ca.gov/opuscds/default.aspx>.

LEAs will provide the following contact information for the Primary and Secondary Grant Coordinators and the Fiscal Coordinator. If the LEA only has a Primary Grant Coordinator, please duplicate that information for the Secondary Grant Coordinator.

* First and Last Name
* Title
* Phone
* Ext.
* Email
* Fax

**2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act  
Comprehensive Support and Improvement  
Local Educational Agency Application for Funding**

**Section 4: Narrative Responses**

The local educational agency (LEA) must provide complete responses to the four prompts below. Please note the character limits allowed for each prompt.

The LEA is required to utilize the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) processes for the 2021–22 school year to locally develop and implement a plan for the school to improve student outcomes in each school that meets the criteria for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) on the 2019 California School Dashboard.

**Prompt 1**: Describe any separate planning process that the LEA will use. If the LEA will not use any separate planning process, please type **NA** for the response. **(Max 500 characters)**.

The LEA is required to utilize the LCAP and SPSA processes to monitor schools identified for CSI.

**Prompt 2**: Describe any separate monitoring process that the LEA will use. If the LEA will not use any separate monitoring process, please type **NA** for the response. **(Max 500 characters)**.

**Prompt 3**: Describe how CSI funds will be used to support the needs assessment and root cause analysis process to address the reasons for identification and to ensure that interventions/strategies/activities align to the goals, actions, and services in the LCAP. **(Max 1000 characters)**.

For the prompt below, external partners include any external service provider **other than the county office of education and other agencies within the state system of support that the LEA would partner with to develop and implement the CSI plan**.

**Prompt 4:** Describe the LEA’s rigorous review process to recruit, screen, select, and evaluate any external service provider with whom the LEA will partner. If the LEA will not partner with any external service provider/s, please type **NA** for the response. **(Max 1000 characters)**.

**2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act  
Comprehensive Support and Improvement  
Local Educational Agency Application for Funding**

## Section 5: 2020–21 Comprehensive Support and Improvement Preliminary Funding Plan

| **LEA Name** | **Preliminary FY 2020 LEA Allocation** |
| --- | --- |
| SAMPLE Unified School District | $0.00 |

From the local educational agency's (LEA’s) preliminary allocation under this grant, the LEA may distribute funds among the schools that meet the criteria for Comprehensive Support and Improvement on the California School 2019 Dashboard. The total amount of distributed funds must match the LEA’s preliminary allocation.

**Note:** The LEA will be required to adjust its Funding Plan when LEA allocation amounts are revised and determined to be final.

| **LEA and School Name** | **Preliminary FY 2020**  **Amount of Funds Distributed** |
| --- | --- |
| SAMPLE Unified (District) | $0.00 |
| ABC Elementary | $0.00 |
| DEF Middle School | $0.00 |
| GHI High School | $0.00 |
| **Total Distributed** | $0.00 |

**2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act  
Comprehensive Support and Improvement  
Local Educational Agency Application for Funding**

Section 6: Signatures

### **ASSURANCES/CERTIFICATIONS/TERMS/CONDITIONS:**

**If the local educational agency (LEA) applies for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) funding, the following statement(s) must be acknowledged.**

* As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I have read all assurances, certifications, terms, and conditions associated with the 2020–21 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)CSILEA Application for Funding and CSI program requirements and I agree to comply with all requirements as a condition of funding.
* I certify that all applicable state and federal rules and regulations will be observed and that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct and complete.

**If the LEA does not apply for CSI funding, the following statement must be acknowledged.**

* As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I confirm that this LEA **does not intend** to apply for fiscal year 2020 ESSA, Section 1003 funds, and acknowledge that the LEA understands its statutory obligation to meet the requirements of ESSA, Section 1111(d)(1).

### SIGNATURE

By signing this application electronically, I, the duly authorized representative of the applicant, agree that my electronic signature is the legally binding equivalent to my handwritten signature. The LEA will provide the following information:

* LEA Name:
* Type your First and Last Name:
* Title:
* Date:
* Email:
* Phone Number:

**Note**: If the LEA wishes to revise its online application after submission, the LEA must resubmit the application prior to the application due date as specified in the Application and Funding Results Timeline.

The CDE is not able to modify the application information after submission. Incomplete or late applications may delay funding.