

Technical Assistance

ACSIP Supervisors provide guidance on federal requirements for schools identified as in improvement. These requirements change depending on the level of improvement which requires more intense technical assistance for schools that are deeper in improvement. Some actions that require technical assistance include:

- Reviewing student data
- Developing and revising a comprehensive needs assessment
- Developing and submitting an ACSIP plan
- Including budgetary requirements in ACSIP plan
- Monitoring and evaluating ACSIP plan
- Revising ACSIP plan as needed
- Developing and revising parental involvement policies
- Designing a teacher-mentoring program
- Allocating 10% of budget for high-quality professional development
- Notifying parents of Public School Choice
- Notifying parents of Supplemental Education Services

For schools in school improvement year 3 and beyond, technical assistance also includes providing guidance on the following requirements:

- Choosing a corrective action (Year 3)
- Incorporating Scholastic Audit “Next Steps” in ACSIP (Year 3 +)
 - Assess where and how the school/district will implement revisions
 - Ensure that recommendations are prioritized
 - Establish meeting dates and times for participants
 - Add a priority for Scholastic Audit into ACSIP Plan
 - Revise needs assessment to include Audit findings
 - Expand goals and benchmark statements
 - Add recommendations to the ACSIP
 - Identifying necessary resources, professional development, etc.
- Revising ACSIP to include chosen corrective action
- Revising the school’s budget to include more effective allocations
- Decide on any additional technical assistance needs
- Monitoring of the corrective action plan
- Addressing any problems found during monitoring of the plan
- Planning for restructuring (Year 4)
- Assist with the implementation of the restructuring plan (Year 5)
- Monitoring and revising the ACSIP as necessary
- Implementing requirements deemed by State Specialty Teams (Year 6)

ACSIP supervisors secure additional services from math, literacy, science and/or other specialists located in regionally-based cooperatives and within the SEA. These specialists provide assistance to the school based on its specified needs.

Grants

Title I Supplemental Grants Section 1003(a) [America's Choice] and 1003(g) provide school districts with additional funds and resources to help them improve and support their Title I schools.

Smart Accountability

Provisions for technical assistance under the Smart Accountability model include: the ACSIP process, the scholastic audit review, and specialized intensive support.

ACSIP

The ACSIP serves as the school improvement plan and is developed based on student achievement data and a needs assessment. ACSIP Supervisors aid districts and schools in developing cohesive ACSIP plans that include all federal requirements, are efficiently budgeted and work to assess achievement gaps. Other stakeholders in the ACSIP planning process include parents, community members, content specialists, etc.

Scholastic Audit

Scholastic Audits are done in schools that are in school improvement year 3 and beyond. The Scholastic Audit examines the learning environment, efficiency, and academic performance of a school. Audit teams are comprised of highly qualified teachers and administrators, pupil services personnel, university faculty, education service cooperative staff, etc. The recommendations from the Scholastic Audit aid in guiding the school improvement process as they are prioritized and added to the school's ACSIP plan.

State Specialty Teams

Specialty Teams provide technical assistance and guidance to schools that have been identified as in improvement and as having high need. Team members include ACSIP Supervisors, regional literacy, math and science specialists, and representatives from education service cooperatives. Other team members may include: special education specialists, data-analysis specialists, parent involvement coordinators, ELL coordinators, etc and depend on the specific, differentiated needs of the school. The state specialty teams are able to provide more intense, specific, and well-rounded technical assistance than previously available. Specialty Teams may provide any assistance requested by the school such as:

- Conduct a needs assessment
- Collaborate with parents, school staff and the LEA in the ACSIP planning process
- Provide assistance in the development and implementation of a school leadership team that focuses on the needs of subpopulations
- Assist teachers with the identification of research-based methods to improve classroom instruction
- Provide opportunities for leadership training
- Provide and arrange for professional development to build school capacity
- Identify and recommend distinguished educators within the school

Specialty Teams work with district leaders to target resources more effectively and build a local, regional and statewide network of support.

Professional Development

Training and professional development is provided in the following areas:

- Principles of Teaching
- Principles of Learning
- Principles of Curriculum
- Principles of Leadership

This training will be a systemic training provided over the school year for administrators and school leadership teams. All school improvement schools must participate. Arkansas' Professional Development will include meaningful, well recognized and research based strategies for increasing student achievement.