

Continuous Improvement Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the continuous improvement process?

The continuous improvement process is:

- Guided by a high-level needs assessment;
- Informed by a robust review and analysis of data;
- Engages stakeholders;

The continuous improvement process results in:

- Development of an ambitious, priority-driven action plan;

The continuous improvement process is guided by:

- Routine collaboration and decision-making among district leaders to reflect on plan implementation progress.

2. What is a continuous improvement plan?

A continuous improvement plan is developed as a part of the continuous improvement process and therefore is a priority-driven plan based on identified needs, that provides short and long-term measures of success; the plan outlines a district's goals, areas of focus, and corresponding strategies and activities.

3. Which districts in Oregon are required to complete and submit a continuous improvement plan?

As described in OAR 581-022-2250 all districts must submit a continuous improvement plan to ODE every three years.

4. Where will districts submit their continuous improvement plan?

In the past, districts have submitted district-level plans using a platform called Indistar. Work is currently underway at ODE to determine the platform and process for submission of plans. More information will be provided in the fall of 2018.

5. What changes can districts expect to see under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) relative to the continuous improvement process and planning?

Under Oregon's ESSA State Plan, ODE emphasizes the importance of the continuous improvement process for all schools and districts as part of a healthy system. Historically, continuous improvement plans were developed in Indistar by assessing and addressing discreet tasks and activities tied to a range of questions. Moving forward, ODE will clearly separate and delineate the needs assessment process and subsequent planning process. The intended result will be a priority-driven continuous improvement plan with clear goals, strategies, and action steps outlined in a simple, user-friendly format. Additional compliance checklists may be required, such as the Division 22 assurances for districts.

6. Why the changes to the continuous improvement plan?

ODE is committed to responding to stakeholders' needs in order to reduce duplicative processes of federal and state requirements, including requests for needs assessments and plans. Presently, ODE requires districts to complete multiple separate needs assessments and develop stand alone plans to meet state and federal requirements. Moving forward, ODE will support districts in developing one single comprehensive, priority-driven plan informed by a needs assessment process. This transition will take time; however, current efforts are underway to evaluate and streamline all state and federal program requirements.

7. What tools and resources will ODE provide to support districts?

ODE will publish a high-level needs assessment and continuous improvement plan planning template in the fall of 2018.

Supports and resources will be available to districts to engage in the continuous improvement process, including:

- Online and Web Supports
 - Process Guidance Documents
 - Comprehensive Needs Assessment Guidelines, Tools and Resources
 - Planning Tools and Resources
 - Implementation Routines Tools and Resources
- Regional Supports through Educational Service Districts (ESDs)
- Formal Improvement Partnerships with ODE (districts with multiple Comprehensive and/or Targeted Improvement Schools).
- Regional and Local Coaches
 - For districts with multiple Comprehensive or Targeted Improvement Schools (CSI/TSI) ODE will designate district liaisons trained to facilitate a district team through a needs assessment process, planning process (CIP) and the development of implementation routines.
 - For districts participating in the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) ODE will provide supports to regional and local coaches to engage in the continuous improvement process including the comprehensive needs assessment process, planning process (CIP) and in the development of implementation routines.