

# Continuous Improvement

## Technical Assistance Topic April 2026

### What Do We Do Now: Federal and State Requirements of Schools and LEAs

As we near the end of the 2025-26 school year, it is time to begin the work for the 2026-27 school year. With the recent publishing of the 2025 WSIF data and your End of Year Reviews on the horizon, it is time to gather your communities to revise, edit, and prepare your work for the next school year.

#### PLAN

**Required by Federal Law (ESEA §1111(d)) and Washington State Law (WAC 180-16-220, RCW 28A.150.210)**

**Schools and LEAs (District) must:**

- Review and make necessary updates to your cycle three Comprehensive Needs Assessment and use data to identify student group gaps and resource inequities (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(B)(i)-(ii)*)
- Develop the 2026-27 School Improvement Plan with staff, families, community, and Tribes when applicable (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(B); ESEA §8538; WAC 180-16-220(2)(a)*)
- Identify the Resource Inequities and support them through LEA plan (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(B)(iv)*)
- Review the effectiveness of your identified evidence-based interventions and measurable goals, use your collected data and feedback to maintain or update those measures (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(B)(ii)-(iii)*)
- Schedule school board time to approve completed school plans for use in the 2026-27 school year (*WAC 180-16-220 (2) and WAC 180-16-220 (2)*)

**LEAs must:**

- Ensure school plans are developed for all schools and meet necessary requirements (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(A), §1111(d)(2)(A)*)
- Approve the completed school plans for use in the 2026-27 school year (*WAC 180-16-220 (2) and WAC 180-16-220 (2)*)

#### DO

**Required by Federal Law (ESEA §1111(d), §1003)**

**Schools must:**



- Implement the approved school improvement plan, including selected strategies (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(B)*)  
**LEAs must:**
- Approve the completed school plans for use in the 2026-27 school year (*WAC 180-16-220 (2) and WAC 180-16-220 (2)*)
- Support schools in implementing plans using evidence-based interventions (*ESEA §1111(d)(3)(A)*)
- Use state and federal funds to support these actions (*ESEA §1003*)

## STUDY

### Required by Federal Law (ESEA §1111(d))

- **Schools and LEAs must:**
- Monitor implementation and student outcomes and adjust the plan as needed (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(B)(iv)*)  
**LEAs must:**
- Oversee progress and provide additional support when schools are not improving (*ESEA §1111(d)(3)(A)*)

## ACT

### Required by Federal Law (ESEA §1111(d)) and Washington State Law (WAC 180-16-220, RCW 28A.150.210)

- **Schools and LEAs must:**
- Ensure plans are approved by the local school board (*WAC 180-16-220(2); RCW 28A.150.210*)
- Ensure plans align to the state accountability system or ESSA requirements (*WAC 180-16-220(1)*)
- Ensure plans include stakeholder input and ongoing progress monitoring (*ESEA §1111(d)(1)(B)*)

## Concluding

### Federal law (ESEA) and State law (WAC/RCW) supports plans to exist, be approved, and support guide school improvement.

- Meeting these requirements means having an improvement plan that is used, not just written. It must reflect real needs, guide daily work, and be monitored over time. Schools lead implementation, and districts are responsible for ensuring the work is effective and improving results.