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STATE OF NEVADA



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December 7, 2018

Jesus Jara
5100 West Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Dear Superintendent Jara,

This communication serves as an official notice that one or more schools in your district were designated as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and/or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) school in the 2017-18 NSPF school ratings cycle. For a list of the designated schools in your district, please see the attachment to this letter.

Star ratings were published for Nevada's schools on September 14, 2018 under the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF). In addition to the ratings, Nevada is required under federal law – the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – to designate schools that need additional supports, including low-performing schools (CSI), schools with consistently underperforming subgroups (TSI), and schools with very low-performing subgroups (ATSI). CSI and TSI designations were published along with the Star Ratings in September 2018, and ATSI designations will be released in the December 2018 update to the 2017-18 NSPF.

The methodologies used to identify CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools are outlined below:

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools

CSI schools are:

- The lowest-performing schools, according to their adjusted NSPF index score;
- One star schools; or
- High schools with a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate below 67%.

Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Schools

TSI schools are schools with consistently underperforming subgroups across these indicators:

- Academic Achievement, which includes Math and English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency and in the case of elementary schools, Read By 3 proficiency;

- Academic Growth (i.e., year to year progress) which includes the Median Student Growth Percentile (MGP) and Adequate Growth Percentile (AGP) for both Math and ELA;
- English Learner (EL) Growth on the EL proficiency assessment (WIDA); and
- Student Engagement, which includes Math and ELA Opportunity Gaps as well as Chronic Absenteeism.

A school was identified for TSI if subgroups did not meet performance targets over two consecutive years in the Academic Achievement Indicator AND at least two additional Indicators. An alternative to meeting the Math and ELA proficiency target was a reduction in non-proficient students in that subgroup by 10% over the prior year's performance. To be a TSI school, the same subgroup did not need to be identified across the three indicators (i.e., a school could be identified for TSI where FRL students did not meet Academic Achievement targets, Hispanic students did not meet Academic Growth targets, and IEP students did not meet Student Engagement targets). High schools were not considered for TSI for 2017-18, but they will be included in 2018-19 designations.

A TSI school that does not improve in the area for which it has been identified after a three year improvement plan will be identified as a CSI school.

Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) Schools

ATSI schools are a subset of TSI schools that require additional targeted support because of significant subgroup performance challenges that would, on their own, lead to a CSI designation. As part of the state's effort to provide increased supports for student populations with the most need, as well as to ensure there is not a gap in supports for any student, if the performance of any one subgroup on any one measure is at or below an established performance level representative of CSI schools on that measure, then that school was identified for ATSI. High schools were not considered for ATSI for 2017-18 but will be included in 2018-19 designations. The measures included in ATSI are:

- Math proficiency, ELA proficiency, Science proficiency, and Read By 3 proficiency (elementary schools only);
- Median Student Growth Percentile (MGP) and Adequate Growth Percentile (AGP) for both Math and ELA;
- English Learner (EL) Growth on the EL proficiency assessment (WIDA); and
- Math and ELA Opportunity Gaps, Chronic Absenteeism, Academic Learning Plans, (middle schools only), and 8th Grade Credit Requirements (middle schools only).

Notification Schools

The school designation criteria outlined above is applied to all schools in the state to determine their school designations. The result of this approach is that schools that were close to meeting the designation criteria were also identified as "Notified" schools. The set of Notified schools is also attached for your reference.

Supports

Supports for Comprehensive Support Schools (CSI) are a priority of NDE. NDE will approve improvement plans and strategies, provide funding, and monitor goals and improvements for CSI schools.

Supports for CSI schools include Title I, 1003(a), and Title IVA funding, professional development, plan/goal creation, progress meetings, and evaluation of improvement strategies.

Targeted Support Schools (TSI) are the priority of LEAs. Implementation of focused or systemwide strategies and interventions that strategically use both internal and external resources for their improvement plan are the responsibility of the LEA. Supports for TSI schools include collaboration with NDE teams, limited funding streams, and monitoring.

Please contact Maria Sauter at the Nevada Department of Education for assistance at msauter@doe.nv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan P. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jonathan Moore, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement
Nevada Department of Education