

To: District Administrators
From: Mike Thompson, Deputy State Superintendent
Date: December 5, 2019
Re: Preliminary Joint Federal Notification Packets - available in SAFE

As outlined last month, your preliminary joint federal notification packets are available today in SAFE. Whether or not your packet reflects a preliminary identification for support under ESSA or IDEA, the information in SAFE can inform your continuous improvement efforts to eliminate achievement gaps.

What's in Your Packet and How to Access It

The preliminary notification packets in SAFE include reports for all schools and districts. They include reports that align with the two major federal education laws:

1. Preliminary LEA Determinations for all school districts, which weights equally results and compliance for preliminary identifications, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and
2. School-level reports (ESSA), which include preliminary identifications, if any, for Targeted Support and Improvement.
3. Schools identified for Comprehensive or Additional Targeted Support last year will receive an ESSA Progress to Exit Report, which will include information about the school's performance related to exit criteria. Please note that two years of data are necessary for a school to exit so no schools will exit this year.

To access your district's packet, go to [SAFE](#). If you need help accessing the system, please visit the [SAFE landing page](#) or complete a [Help Ticket](#).

The data and reports are in SAFE until the public release, which will occur after final identifications are announced. This gives districts and schools an opportunity to review and understand the data prior to the public release. We ask that you not share this info in any public setting, including public meetings until the data is released publicly. The LEA preliminary determination detailed report may contain student-identifiable information and should never be shared publicly.

Suggested Next Steps for Schools and Districts with Preliminary Identifications

If you receive a preliminary identification for support, we invite you to start a planning period for your district or school -- as you'll see from our [Timeline of Recommended Actions for Improving Achievement and Closing Gaps](#). We recommend taking this opportunity to use or build on successful

continuous improvement efforts you are already engaged in, such as Educator Effectiveness -- using your current, or starting a new, continuous improvement cycle.

Under our flexible approach, districts and schools that are identified for improvement under IDEA and/or ESSA will be required to demonstrate they are engaged in continuous improvement -- with some specific components -- that addresses systemic issues.

Where Can I Go for Help?

If you are an administrator of a district with any preliminary school- or district-level identifications, we urge you to set up a 30-minute technical assistance phone consultation with us as your first step. DPI staff with expertise in these federal systems will walk you through your preliminary identifications and address your questions. We urge you to invite others to participate in the call, such as CESA staff focused on improvement efforts and building leaders from schools with preliminary identifications. Click [here](#) to reserve a time slot.

If your school or district is preliminarily identified for support, you have the opportunity to strengthen your existing improvement efforts by taking advantage of continuous improvement supports. Thanks to coordination among DPI, CESAs, and other partners, available supports throughout the state are built around what we know works to help schools close achievement gaps. These resources are optional, and the cost, if any, will be minimal for districts and schools.

Supports include [online tools](#) related to continuous improvement planning, future availability of funding for schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement, and professional development. Specifically, CESA staff have been trained to support you in continuous improvement, and there are [aligned professional learning opportunities scheduled in each CESA](#).

If you have questions about federal accountability, the data related to the preliminary identifications, or the available supports, [please sign up](#) for a technical assistance phone call so we can assist your district directly.

Thank you for partnering with us in the work of ensuring every student graduates college and career ready. These preliminary federal identifications provide an opportunity to better understand your school's and district's performance and to continue to improve outcomes for each and every student. DPI and CESAs are your partners in this work, and we stand ready to assist.