



**Date:** [date], 2025  
**To:** District Administrators with schools identified for CSI or ATSI  
**From:** Dr. Nicole Horsley, Section Lead, Federal Formula Grants  
**Subject:** 2025-26 Formula Grants for Schools Identified for CSI or ATSI

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) makes funds available for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

School identifications under the ESSA are part of a statewide accountability system mandated under ESSA's Title I, Part A. Wisconsin's accountability system, as articulated in the [ESSA State Plan](#), is designed to make progress toward the following long-term goals:

- **Academic Achievement Goal:** Cut the achievement gap in half for each student group by 2029-30.
- **Graduation Rate Goal:** Cut 4-year and 7-year graduation gaps in half by 2029-30.
- **English Language Proficiency (ELP) Goal:** Achieve an 18% increase in students on track to proficiency by 2029-30.

Using indicators based on the goals above, the DPI's Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) identifies the schools that need the most help in making progress. By identifying schools for support and improvement and ensuring they develop and implement improvement plans based on the reasons for their identification, the DPI helps Wisconsin's schools make steady progress toward achieving the long-term goals. DPI's Office of Continuous Improvement supports the improvement efforts of identified schools and provides additional federal funding for both CSI and ATSI schools through a formula grant meant to support these schools' improvement efforts.

This communication is an invitation for your district to apply for these grants to fund your eligible schools. Allocation information is linked below.

*Please make sure the following information is shared with the correct person in your school district.*

**Two grants are available this year to support identified schools:**

- **2025-26 CSI/ATSI Grant: *Plan/Form Submission Deadline: September 15***  
CSI/ATSI Grants support schools with new or continuing identifications for CSI or ATSI.
- **2025-26 CSI More Rigorous Intervention (MRI) Grant: *Plan Submission Deadline: September 15***  
Schools identified for CSI in 2018 that have not exited are eligible for CSI MRI grants.

Both grants provide formula-based allocations. Applications for both grants are submitted in WISEgrants. Guidelines and allocation spreadsheets are linked below.

**Application Basics**

Documentation must be uploaded for each school receiving funds:

- For ATSI the required document is the ATSI Improvement Activities Form.
- For CSI, the required document is a school improvement plan that meets the requirements outlined in the grant guidelines.

A list of all the Evidence-based Improvement Strategies (EBIS) to be used in the Local Educational Agency (LEA) must also be entered, and then one or more items from the list must be linked to each school. For schools identified for CSI MRIs, EBIS choices are limited.

Items are budgeted to a specific EBIS. Budgeting for an EBIS can begin once it has been approved by DPI. All budget items must support a school improvement plan that meets requirements for the identification.

### **Option to Fund Planning Activities–Available for ATSI**

There is an option to use funds for ATSI planning activities—for example, to support a thorough needs assessment and root cause analysis. To use this option, enter “Planning” as the EBIS on the ATSI Improvement Activities Form.

### **For More Information**

Grant guidelines and application instructions are linked below, along with other resources. If you cannot find the answers to your questions, contact Alfonso Zepeda-Capistrán, at 608-267-2287 or [Alfonso.Zepeda-Capistran@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:Alfonso.Zepeda-Capistran@dpi.wi.gov).

Grant Information and Forms:

- [CSI/ATSI Grant guidelines](#)
- [CSI/ATSI Grant application instructions for WISEgrants](#)
- [CSI/ATSI Grant allocation spreadsheet 2025-26](#)
- [ATSI Improvement Activities Form](#) (*forced copy*)
- [CSI MRI Grant guidelines](#)
- [CSI MRI Grant allocation spreadsheet 2025-26](#)

Additional Resources:

- [ESSA Accountability Reports webpage](#), with access to public reports
- [LEA Guide to ESSA Identifications](#)
- [Brief Guide to ESSA Identifications](#)
- [ESSA School Identifications web section](#)
- [Equity Mindset Cards](#)