SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

EASI Route: Other Services

Introduction

School closures and consolidations are challenging for students, staff, and families at both the closing and receiving schools. School Transitions offers support focused on ensuring that students, staff, and families are welcomed and successfully integrated into a new school community following the closure or consolidation of schools. Funds for School Transitions must be focused on the implementation of one or more of the core components outlined in CDE's Family, School, Community Partnership Strategy Guide 2.0 (FSCP).

Program Description

School Transitions is designed as a short-term support aimed at supporting transition activities in the spring prior to school closure or consolidation through the beginning of the new school year. Grantees are asked to narrow the transition support to one or more core components from the FSCP strategy guide aligned to the highest priority needs resulting from the school closure or consolidation. Core components of the FSCP strategy guide include:

- Welcoming All Families into the School Community
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating with Community

Every school closure or consolidation is unique based on the local context. Grantees are strongly encouraged to consider the highest priorities of both the closing and receiving school(s) in developing the focus of the School Transitions support.

Eligibility & Prioritization

Prerequisites. A school closure or school consolidation plan must have been approved by the local board of education. If the local board of education approval of the school closure is pending prior to the application deadline, a district may apply with the understanding that funding is contingent upon the school closure or consolidation and funds may not be reallocated to other improvement efforts if the school closure is not approved.

Note: In scenarios of a potential school closure or consolidation without a clear date of local board of education approval/voting, please contact the program staff listed above to discuss the local context to determine if School Transitions is an appropriate support.

Eligibility. A district is eligible to apply on behalf of schools if either the closing school or the receiving school (receiving at least 50% of the student population from a school closure or consolidation) is identified as:
- Schools identified for improvement under ESSA as Comprehensive Support (CS), Targeted Support (TS), or Additional Targeted Support (ATS); and/or
- Schools with a state identification School Performance Framework plan type of Priority Improvement, Turnaround, or On Watch

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Note: In scenarios of a school consolidation involving several school sites, please contact the program staff listed above to confirm eligibility.

Prioritization. If not all EASI proposals can be funded, proposals that meet grant expectations will be funded in the order of the EASI school-level prioritization list. Schools with the highest number of prioritization points will be funded first. District level supports will use the average prioritization of involved EASI eligible schools. Details on how prioritization points are calculated and the points for each EASI eligible school are available on the **EASI Resources and Technical Assistance** webpage.

Program Considerations & Fit

Program Considerations. The timeline for use of funds has a short duration and funds are not allowed to be reallocated or extended. Districts should have a clear school closure or school consolidation plan in place with defined uses of the funds to support student, staff, and family transitions into a new school community.

Program Fit. School Transitions is a narrow support designed only to address needs arising from a school closure or consolidation. If the receiving school is eligible for EASI supports, districts may want to consider District Designed & Led-Major Improvement Strategy focused on the FSCP Strategy Guide 2.0 over School Transitions to extend the duration of the support and amount of the grant.

Sequence of Program Support

The sequence of School Transitions is dependent on the local context and needs related to the upcoming school closure or consolidation. All activities must be aligned to the FSCP Strategy Guide 2.0 to support transition and integration efforts and are limited in duration but may vary focus based on needs. Below is a sample sequence under School Transitions:

Example- FSCP Strategy Guide 2.0 Core Component- Welcoming All Families into the School Community
1. Spring preparations for upcoming school closure and transition- Students, Staff, and Families (March-May 2025)
   - Launch student, staff, and family surveys to determine the needs of the impacted school communities as it relates to the school closure, barriers to family participation, and engagement efforts
   - School Transitions team (staff, student, and family representatives from closing and receiving schools) review survey results and develop a plan for building a community of belonging and inclusivity
2. Summer Transition Activities (June-August 2025)
   - New and incoming staff members attend summer professional learning to develop skill sets related to building communities and developing a sense of belonging
   - Planning and implementation days to incorporate professional learning into the plan developed by the School Transitions team
3. Back to School Kick-Off Activities (August-September 2025)
   - Activities related to the successful launch of a new school year as a new school community

Available Funds & Duration

Available Funds. Awards are up to $50,000 in Year 1 for each school closure or consolidation with a district cap of $100,000 per year.

Duration. Program support is designed as a short-term school transition support for ending the current school year and beginning the next school year following a school closure or consolidation. Grantees will be expected to obligate all funds by 09/30. Funds remaining after 09/30 may not be reallocated to another improvement effort or extended.

Allowable Use of Funds

Funds are intended to support the transition of students, staff, and families as aligned to the FSCP Strategy Guide 2.0. Allowable use of funds includes costs associated with:

- Hiring an external provider to assess and review needs of students from a closing school and/or develop a school transition plan
- Hiring an external provider to facilitate student, staff, family or community engagement activities
- Development of a school transition team to support FSCP efforts (stipends, benefits, non-food meeting costs)
- Staff time for the implementation of school transition activities aligned to the FSCP guide (stipends, benefits)
- Stakeholder engagement (stipends for teachers, translation, childcare, surveys, focus groups, etc.)
- Development and implementation of a two-way communication to support the school closure transition
- Student transition engagement activities related to the school closure transition
- Creation of an inclusive environment for students, staff, and families (events, childcare, materials)
- Other expenses aligned with the selected core components of the FSCP guide

Budget Recommendations. For the application, a draft budget should include how the funds may be used. General placeholders are not acceptable due to the short duration of this grant support. Any expenses related to an external provider must be supported by a scope of work (draft version acceptable) that clearly outlines timelines, deliverables, and costs for the LEA.

Fund Considerations.
- Funds from this opportunity must be used to **supplement and not supplant** any federal, state, and local funds currently being used to provide activities.
- Post-award revisions must be approved by 06/30 and funds drawn down by 09/30 of each respective fiscal year.
- A school or district may carry funds forward in alignment with funding source restrictions and with CDE approval. At the end of the grant performance period, any non-requested federal funds are reverted and any unspent state funds must be returned to the state.
- CDE may terminate a grant award upon thirty days' notice if it is deemed by CDE that the applicant is not fulfilling the requirements of the funded program as specified in the approved project application, or if the program is generating less than satisfactory results.

Important Program Dates

Program Dates	Activity
September- December	Meet with CDE Staff to discuss application and next steps
December	Application due
January	Award notifications
March-September	School Transitions support implemented to prepare for the school closure or consolidation and support beginning of year activities
September 30	All funds obligated

Evaluation and Reporting

Each grantee of the program must, at a minimum, agree to the following evaluation, reporting, and/or progress monitoring components:
- Develop and report on implementation milestones and performance targets
- Other evaluation survey results as determined in partnership with CDE
- Annual Financial Report (AFR) each fiscal year by 09/30

Note: All data collected will protect personally identifiable information (PII) protected and is only reported on an aggregate level for purposes of evaluating the EASI support and/or supporting future program improvements.

Program Assurances

LEA Commitments:

- Designate a program contact person or small working team who will be responsible for the implementation of the supported improvement effort related to the school closure
- Meet all grant requirements in a timely manner
- Participate in the development, tracking, monitoring, and sharing of implementation milestones and performance targets with CDE staff through the duration of the grant
- Participate in two implementation check-ins each year of the grant with designated CDE staff
- Ensure that funds are being leveraged with other local, state, and federal funds (e.g., Titles I, II, III, V, and IDEA) and that accountability for cost-effective management is provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Colorado Department of Education's EASI Website
www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/easiapplication