

Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) Timeline Shift

Beginning in the 2021-22 School Year



October 15, 2021: Public Posting of the Unified Improvement Plans

The State Board of Education approved the permanent move to the October 15 public posting timeline for schools and districts beginning in the 2021-22 school year. This timeline shift was based upon strong support from the field to create a state timeline that better matches a more natural planning process at the local level. This timeline enables districts and schools to use spring as a time to reflect on current implementation and local data to draft an improvement plan for implementation the following fall. State data, typically available by late summer, can be used to validate the direction and fine tune any additional planning requirements.

Key Terms and Implications

Accountability Pause: Due to disruptions in schooling from the COVID-19 pandemic, state and federal accountability identifications were paused based on 2019 determinations. Specific [improvement planning guidance is available](#). Note the State Board of Education is considering making the April 2021 submission window optional due to recommendations made by the [COVID-19 Policy Implications Stakeholder Group](#).

Biennial Flexibility: Schools and Districts implementing a Performance plan are eligible to submit their plans on alternating years. When taking advantage of this flexibility, Schools and Districts should ensure that their improvement plan spans two school years. Note: districts can require that all schools must submit a plan annually regardless of plan type.

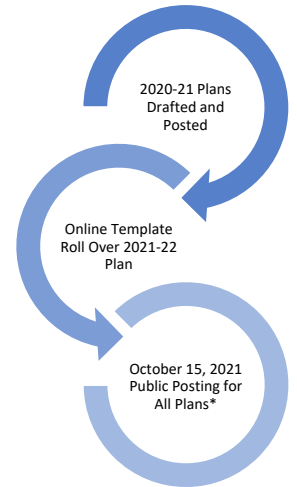
Combined Plan Flexibility: Small rural districts (i.e., less than 1000 students or less than 1200 students with approval by the department) may submit a single plan that covers the district and all district schools. If exercising this flexibility, be sure to look at the expectations associated with the district and for each school, including timeline expectations.

Performance Watch: Schools and districts implementing a Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan (i.e., on the accountability clock), as well as schools and districts that are On Watch (i.e., previously on the clock for at least two years and most recently earned a Performance or Improvement plan type), will submit for public posting and for CDE review by October 15th. This will enable the department to provide feedback much sooner in the school year than previously.

Planning Supports and Resources: The School improvement and Planning team at CDE has developed a variety of resources, [reporting visualizations](#), and planning considerations. Members of the team are also available for in person or virtual training.

School and District Accountability Committees: All schools and districts are required to convene a committee of stakeholders (including families, community, school staff and students) to provide input on the UIP.

UIP Online System: Plans are drafted within an annual template that is generated for each school and district annually and includes reporting guidance specific to each school.



Timeline Considerations and Recommendations

Winter/Spring 2021	<p>District and building planning teams review performance data (especially local data) and implementation data to begin drafting the 2021-22 improvement plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may include re-examining root causes, reviewing interim data, and determining if previous strategies were having the intended impact. Consider how district and school level accountability committees need to adjust their timeline to meaningfully participate in plan development and quarterly review of implementation. If desired, a Word version of the online system template is available for planning before the 2021-22 template is available in the online system.
April 2021	<p>2020-21 Plans not yet submitted may be due* for public posting due in April 2021. The State Board of Education is expected to vote on rule amendment by March 2021. <i>Note: If this flexibility is taken, then the school and/or district's plan will be due in October 2021.</i></p>
May 2021	<p>2021-22 UIP Template Roll Over – New year of planning may begin in online system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize Data (especially local data) Visit the School- or District-Level Quality Criteria (available on the UIP resources page) and review planning expectations. Updated criteria for the 2021-22 school year will be available in late spring or early summer. Review Section 1 in the online system for planning requirements. <i>Note: This section will indicate any requirements that are not yet determined for 2021-22 and when those will be available.</i>
August – September 2021	<p>If available, review and integrate state level performance data and make necessary adjustments to plan. Consult with stakeholders as needed (e.g., accountability committees, local board) and engage in any accountability clock activities based on continued SPF rating (e.g., public notification). Begin implementation of the 2021-22 improvement plan.</p>
October 2021	<p>Plan due to CDE for public posting. CDE will review plans and provide feedback for schools and districts on performance watch (i.e., Priority Improvement, Turnaround, On Watch) and ESSA CS identified schools. Eligible schools may exercise biennial flexibility.</p>
Fall/Winter 2022	<p>Plan implementation continues. Districts, schools and accountability committees continue progress monitoring and adjusting planning accordingly.</p>
Winter/Spring 2022	<p>District and building teams review 2021-22 local performance data and implementation data to begin drafting the 2022-23 UIP. School and District Accountability Committees should be meaningfully involved in the UIP process, including plan development and quarterly review of implementation.</p>
Fall 2022	<p>Begin implementation of the 2021-22 improvement plan. (October 2022) Plan due to CDE for public posting and CDE review. Eligible schools may exercise biennial flexibility.</p>

Contact us with additional questions or to set up additional training and support:

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