



Cross-District and State Collaborative Effort to Use ESSA to Redesign High Schools to Meet the Needs of Their Communities in the 21st Century

Ohio is participating with six other states (IL, NY, MA, LA, MS, and NM), the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Civic Enterprises working collaboratively to use ESSA to enable high schools to redesign themselves to meet the needs of their communities in the 21st century.

Why High School Redesign is Needed

High schools play a central role in the development of their communities.

For this to continue in the 21st century, high schools have to prepare all their students for post-secondary success.

In today's economy young adults who dropout or only have high school diplomas will struggle to find work sufficient to support a family.

This is a new mission for a new century and will require high schools to redesign themselves.

How ESSA Provides an Opportunity

All high schools with graduation rates of 67% or less, or that are in the lowest 5% of schools in terms of performance, are required under ESSA to engage in comprehensive improvement activities.

These comprehensive improvement activities will be guided by needs assessments, which includes community input and built upon evidence-based strategies.

Schools can apply for competitive school improvement funds to help them build capacity and implement their comprehensive improvements.

Why Participate in a Cross-District and Cross-State Collaborative Effort?

Redesigning high schools to enable all students to graduate prepared for post-secondary success and meet the needs of the community is very challenging work. It is both difficult to launch and sustain on your own.

The Cross-District and Cross-State effort is designed to provide participating schools with:

- A common set of processes and tools to support the redesign process
- Easy access to the most up-to-date knowledge on what is known about evidence-based strategies for high schools
- Ability to visit schools in other districts and states facing similar circumstances and learning about which approaches are and are not working for them.
- Being part of peer-based learning networks both within the state and across multi states.
- Access to technical assistance and implementation support partners to support locally-driven high school redesign efforts.

What is Expected of Participating High Schools/Districts

- Participate in a facilitated needs assessment and community input process using tools developed by the Collaborative.
- Select a network, a cross-district, and/or cross state network to join that is aligned with the outcomes of needs assessment and community input (i.e., matches with the type of high school redesign desired (three months for A and B)).
- Work with the network and their technical assistance providers to do the redesign work and apply evidence-based strategies to address unmet needs and translate this into the school improvement plan required by ESSA per Ohio's guidelines.
- Apply for competitive ESSA school improvement funding.
- Engage in planning and capacity building activities with support of your chosen network (6-9 months for C,D, and E).
- Implement redesign over a three-year period. Continue to participate in and be supported by network learning activities, including peer-based learning communities and visits to other schools tackling similar challenges.
- Use and report out a set of on-track to improvement metrics designed by the Collaborative.

Cross State High School Collaborative

Using ESSA to Redesign High Schools to Support Their Communities in the 21st Century

