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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: March 24, 2023

TO: Deborah A. Frison, Ed.D.
Deputy Commissioner of Education

FROM: Shirley Vargas, Ed.L.D.
School Transformation Officer

Beth Wooster
Administrator, ESEA Federal Programs

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the commissioner to grant Support for Improvement (SFI) funding for Comprehensive Support for Improvement (CSI) schools.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other):

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each state identify schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI). CSI schools are the lowest 5% of Title I schools, any public high school with a graduation rate lower than 67%, and any public school with at least one student group consistently performing at or below the lowest 5% of Title I schools.

Each school identified for CSI must meet the following requirements in the development of their local plan for effective use of Title I school improvement funds in addressing metrics that caused the school to be identified:

- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment with technical assistance from NDE and the appropriate ESU,
- Establish measurable goals targeted to the achievement gaps based on the needs assessment and data analysis,
- Select and implement evidence-based interventions and/or strategies,
- Implement an evaluation system to monitor the effectiveness of selected interventions in improving academic achievement and narrow the achievement gaps, with support of their district.

This year, CSI schools identified in 2018-2019 were eligible to exit this status and there were newly identified CSI schools. In total, there are 40 CSI schools, 23 not-yet-exited schools and 17 newly identified schools. Each school, with support from their district, will submit a funding application that clearly outlines the bullets above and includes a budget request. The funding for these schools will be allocated through a competitive-funding process. All applications will be review by a cross-functional NDE team and reviewed using a scoring rubric to determine extent of funding. Feedback will be provided where necessary.

Some CSI schools will consider hiring new staff for the upcoming school year, as such it will require the NDE to determine their allocations in a timely manner. We anticipate two rounds of funding, the first during



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the April 2023 meeting and the next, during the May 2023 meeting. The funding is for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Amounts not expended during the 2022-2023 amount, roll over into the 2023-2024 school year.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): April 2023

ESTIMATED COST:

School Year	ESEA Title I – Section 1003 Funds (approximation based on current funds available for this year and patters from previously funded years)
2022-2023	\$6,200,000
2023-2024	\$5,000,000
Two Year Estimated Total	\$11,200,000

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Federal funds – Title I – Section 1003
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Describe the grantee selection process:

**Updated 02.07.2023*