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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

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( X ) Action Required  
( ) Informational

## BULLETIN NO. 004-24 SYSTEM AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents  
School District Superintendents  
School District Business Managers

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: 2023 Washington School Improvement Framework 1003 Grant Funds

CONTACT: Liza Hartlyn, Director of Continuous Improvement and Student Support  
360-870-4832, [liza.hartlyn@k12.wa.us](mailto:liza.hartlyn@k12.wa.us)

## PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that all states receiving education funds under the Act establish a school-level accountability system. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will be engaging in the next round of ESSA's required accountability system, known as the [Washington School Improvement Framework](#) (WSIF), in March 2024.

As mandated by ESSA, WSIF is designed to identify schools for additional state support, including technical assistance and access to federal funds, to serve their students. OSPI has developed a comprehensive support system for identified schools that includes technical assistance and direct funding for improvement activities. ESSA Section 1003(b)(1)(A) allows OSPI to retain up to five percent of 1003 funds for technical assistance and support for school and school districts while Section 1003(b)(1)(B) allows OSPI, with district approval, to directly provide support services to schools and school districts or arrange for their provision.

This bulletin is intended to solicit approval from 1003-funded school districts for the upcoming 2023 WSIF identification so that OSPI can continue to provide *all* identified schools and school districts access to its comprehensive support system.

## Current Supports for Identified Schools

Under WSIF Cycles 1 and 2, any school identified for Tier 3 or Tier 3 Plus Supports has been offered comprehensive support through a variety of services and aid from the Office of System and School Improvement (OSSI) to assist in their school improvement efforts:

- Federal and state school-based grant funds for school improvement efforts aligned with each school's state-required School Improvement Plan.
- Continuous Improvement Partner (CIP) who works with district and school leadership to improve education systems at no cost to the district.
- Access to Educational Service District (ESD) network of support focused on continuous system and school improvement.

OSSI comprehensive support for Tier 3 and Tier 3 Plus schools is designed to strengthen local improvement efforts and collaborate with school and district leaders when navigating state and federal requirements of identified schools including:

- Conducting comprehensive needs assessment.
- Developing and submitting a school improvement plan to OSSI.
- Implementing and monitoring the improvement activities.
- Submitting twice-a-year progress monitoring updates.

Any schools identified for Tier 2 Supports have access to a network of support focused on continuous improvement and, if funds are available, school improvement grant funds. Tier 2 Support schools submit a SIP directly to their school district for approval, review, and monitoring.

**Available supports are optional, improvement requirements are not.**

### Use of Supports for Next Identification Cycle

All schools identified for comprehensive support as Tier 3 and Tier 3 Plus schools under WSIF Cycle 3 are required to:

- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment.
- Develop and submit a school improvement plan to OSSI.
- Implement and monitor the improvement activities.
- Submit twice-a-year progress monitoring updates.

OSPI has retained a portion of the 1003 funds for school improvement to use toward providing and arranging for the provision of direct service and technical assistance to districts and schools to assist with identification requirements as allowed under ESSA Section 1003(b)(1)(A), in addition to providing improvement grant funding through 1003 funds for each qualifying school. The technical assistance has been provided at **no cost** to schools and districts and has included such services as assisting with conducting a comprehensive needs assessment, SIP development, supporting leaders with implementation, and progress monitoring of system improvement efforts.

Under ESSA Section 1003(b)(1)(B), OSPI is contacting districts seeking approval to continue providing each district with comprehensive, no cost, school improvement support for Tier 3 Plus, Tier 3, and Tier 2 schools. Approving the retention of a percentage of 1003 funds means

schools identified for Tier 3 and Tier 3 Plus supports will be able to receive improvement dollars while receiving technical assistance for required improvement activities at no cost to the school and LEA. Declining the retention of funds means schools may receive a slight increase in improvement grant funding but will not receive technical assistance for required improvement activities from OSPI.

Please respond to this short survey [District 1003 Funds Opt In \(alchemer.com\)](https://alchemer.com).

1. The LEA approves OSSI's retention of not more than 25% of 1003 funds to provide continued comprehensive support for WSIF Cycle 3.
2. The LEA declines OSSI's retention of not more than 25% of 1003 funds to provide continued comprehensive support WSIF Cycle 3.

**Survey responses are due by Thursday, January 25, 2024.** OSPI will interpret no response as approval for OSSI to retain 1003 fund per ESSA Section 1003(b)(1)(B).

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Liza Hartlyn, Director of Continuous Improvement and Student Support, at 360-870-4832 or email [liza.hartlyn@k12.wa.us](mailto:liza.hartlyn@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

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CR:lh

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