

What Are Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools?

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools receive comprehensive State and local support for school improvement. CSI schools include Title I schools that are the lowest performing in the State, and those having a chronically low performing student group. CSI schools also include high schools where one third or more of students do not graduate on time.

CSI schools are identified through Maryland's Accountability System, which was implemented through statewide engagement after the passage of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. All states are required to identify CSI schools and approve and monitor their improvement plans.

HOW ARE CSI SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED?

CSI schools are identified every three years using all indicators in Maryland's Accountability System. The identification of CSI schools in the 2022-2023 school year was based on data from the 2021-2022 school year. There are three ways for a school to be identified as a CSI school:

- **CSI Lowest Performing Schools** are the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools in Maryland. Title I schools are those having a high percentage of children from low-income families.¹
- **CSI Low Performing Student Group Schools** are Title I schools that have a student group within the school performing as low as the State's CSI Lowest Performing schools for two consecutive identification cycles. Student groups include racial and ethnic groups, students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and English learners (ELs).
- **CSI Low Graduation Rate Schools** are high schools where one third or more of students do not graduate on time. On time graduation is defined as graduation within four years. Any high school can be designated as a CSI Low Graduation Rate school regardless of Title I status.

WHAT SUPPORTS DOES A CSI SCHOOL RECEIVE?

CSI schools receive state support, beginning with a root cause analysis to uncover the causes of performance challenges. An improvement plan is then developed and implemented through collaboration, partnerships, and technical assistance. The improvement plan is annually monitored and approved by the State. LEAs also receive an annual grant to fund the implementation of evidence-based improvement strategies and supports in their CSI schools.

HOW DO THE IDENTIFIED CSI SCHOOLS EXIT?

Schools identified as CSI schools in the 2022-2023 school year will be eligible to exit in the 2026-2027 school year. Exit requirements for CSI Lowest Performing schools include meeting targets for two consecutive years in addition to no longer being in the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools in the State. CSI Low Performing Student Group Schools will exit their CSI status if their CSI-identified student

¹ For more information on the Title I program and the complete list of Title I schools in Maryland, visit the Title I, Part A page on the Maryland Public Schools website.

group is no longer performing as low as the State’s CSI Lowest Performing schools. CSI Low Graduation Rate Schools will exit the CSI status if more than two thirds of students graduate on time.

CSI Identification	Identification Year	Eligible for Exit	Exiting Requirements
CSI Lowest Performing Schools	SY 2022-2023	SY 2026-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet targets for two consecutive years • No longer be in the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools in the State
CSI Low Performing Student Group Schools	SY 2022-2023	SY 2026-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Identified student group in the school no longer performs as low as the State’s CSI Lowest Performing schools. • The Identified student group meets targets for two consecutive years.
CSI Low Graduation Rate Schools	SY 2022-2023	SY 2026-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have more than two thirds of students graduate on time

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CSI SCHOOL DOES NOT EXIT?

It is the goal of identified schools to improve performance and exit the CSI status after three years. Those schools that do not exit receive more intensive supports and are considered non-exiting CSI schools.