

# Maryland State Department of Education

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## Focus Schools Planning for School Year, 2017 - 2018

# OBJECTIVES

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- To understand the role of MSDE in supporting LEAs with Focus Schools
- To discuss key strategies employed by Maryland's LEAs in their Focus Schools
- To understand and begin planning the implementation process for Focus Schools for the 2017-2018 school year

# Focus Schools in Maryland

- Schools with the largest gaps between the highest and lowest scoring student groups in the schools
  - Implementing strategies and services that lead to improved outcomes to narrow the achievement gaps
  - Addressing student groups and/or the lowest performing students
  
- Focus grants will be awarded to 14 LEAs for services to Focus Schools

# Focus Schools in Maryland 2017 - 2018

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- Title I Focus Schools

All Schools **identified during the 2016-2017** school year that continue to be **designated as Title I schools after July 1, 2017** are Focus Schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

# Supporting LEAs with Focus Schools

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MSDE Staff will

- ❑ Provide guidance in completing 2017-2018 Focus Grant application
- ❑ Conduct ongoing technical assistance throughout the implementation stages of the grants
- ❑ Monitor Focus Grant implementation in LEAs and schools

# Key Components of the Focus Schools Grant Application

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- ❑ Needs Assessment and Root-Cause Analyses
- ❑ Assemble a team to collaborate on overseeing schools' implementation
- ❑ Evidenced-based strategies
- ❑ Measurement of progress and effectiveness of the strategies
- ❑ Provide individual school and a consolidated LEA budget

# Focus School Application Timeline

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## May 17, 2017

Focus School LEAs' Meeting on 2017-2018 SY  
Implementation at the Title I PLI

## Ongoing

Technical Assistance on application process from  
MSDE

## June 26 - July 10, 2017

LEAs Submit Applications

# Focus School Application Timeline (con't)

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**July 11 – July 28, 2017**

MSDE Application Review and Feedback to LEAs

**July 31 – August 11, 2017**

LEAs Respond to Review Feedback

**August 14 – August 28, 2017**

Final Review and Approvals Completed

# Talking Talk Activity

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- WINNERS?
- PROMISING?
- DON'T TRY IT?

QUESTIONS



Program Improvement and Family Support Branch  
May 2017

# Contacts

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