**March TETN Q&A**

**General Communication:**

**Q:** On SPI, can we send more than 5 people if we cover travel costs?

A: Please reach out to Nicole directly to let her know if you would like additional members to attend SPI.

**Q:** Our TIL Lead asked me about the Effective District Framework. Is this different from district commitments in the ESF?

A: The District Commitments in the ESF will be the starting point for the EDF. The EDF will allow us to go much deeper into what effective systems that districts should be aspiring towards.

**ESC Metrics:**

**Q:** The ESC metrics involve Ds, but districts aren't necessarily taking interventions seriously because they do not involve TEA. How might these better align?

A: We are working with the legislative offices to identify guidance that will carry us through the next legislative session. We are working through how to align our interventions in order to carry out our statutory responsibility without stretching our capacity too thin.

**Q:** With metrics in play, it would be helpful if we weren't simply invited to calls, but if we were included in scheduling.

A: The metrics calls were determined by the ESC Executive Director and Core Group member. They were able to select the date and time that worked best for their teams’ schedules.

**Q:** At our ESC the people that were a part of the ESC evaluation are not here at this TETN...

A: An update was provided for SI teams since the SI lead and TIL leads were required participants on the ESC metrics calls. Almost all ESC calls had the leaders of those teams in attendance.

**Q:** How will opt-in ESFs and VIPs be tracked? Are we turning that into TEA or is that self-report?

A: We are hopeful that this type of data collection can occur through the ESC dashboards. ESCs will be able to upload the appropriate data and track progress throughout the year through the dashboards.

**ESF Diagnostic and Facilitator Support:**

**Q:**Is it possible to receive more specific feedback on areas where we are not scored 100%? Similar to evidence that we provide in the ESF reports for the campuses.

A: Yes, if you as the lead have reviewed your reports would like to clarify further, please contact us! We are happy to provide further clarification. Please also utilize the support materials embedded in the action steps tool and the webinar created by CES (in the newsletter).

**Q**: Do externals count on region FOI reports

A: Externals will not count towards region FOI reports.

**Q:** Do external final report scores count towards region reports

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**Q:** How will externals recommend ESCs VIP services if they are not engaged in ESCs?

A: CES will email the final report to SI leads. This will allow leads to connect with the campuses to discuss capacity builders.

**Q:** When does ESF training begin for new staff coming on board?

A: We will likely hold new ESF training in early Fall. Keep an eye out for a future survey to let us know your training needs.

**Q:** How will ESCs know who the external facilitators are? There is no communication from externals?

A: CES connects external facilitators with the SI leads at the beginning of the pairing process. CES acts as the SI lead for externals, but we ensure that leads at local ESCs are looped in with all communication regarding visit dates and final reports.

**Q:** Can we get scores on each diagnostic final report from fall so that we know which one was the best scoring?

A: As the purpose of the FOI report is to surface trend data from your region to support calibration practices and ESFF development and to support you as a lead to focus on your own practices in reviewing the ESFF final reports, we will not be providing each region a report by report rating. We will, however, be showcasing exemplars from the field to give you multiple examples to utilize during calibration practices.

**Q:** Can you please repeat the use of spring ESF diagnostic and how it should be used in Cycle 3 and 4

A: The Spring diagnostic is part of the campus’ long-term school improvement efforts. We most likely will not see changes to the campus’ current TIP or incorporation of information from the Spring ESF Diagnostic in this year’s plan. Instead, we should see the information from the Diagnostic being used by campuses on their Cycle 4 tab. We should be able to see evidence from the diagnostic (including Panorama survey data) informing their efforts for next year- whether that be in the Essential Actions they are going to prioritize, new barriers they have now uncovered, or possible milestones they plan to tackle during Cycle 4 (summer planning for the 2020-2021 school year). Specialists should be asking campuses to reflect on the diagnostic after it has occurred and to start encouraging the campus and DCSI to think about how the information from the diagnostic will impact their future school improvement efforts.

**Feedback:** Can we PLEASE stop adjusting "the process" while we are in the process cycle?

**Response:**We want to reiterate that the resources that we are providing to strengthen the quality of reports and calibration among ESFFs should not be seen as adjustments to the process but rather as tools to support the existing process. Please use these feedback opportunities as support for continuous improvement across the state.

**Feedback:** It is difficult once we are in the ESF process to bring multiple ESFF who have wide roles, above and beyond the ESF, together to recalibrate in the midst.

**Response:** We recognize that bringing together your teams to calibrate can pose challenges. However; we do believe this process is helping us strengthen the quality of reports and calibration so that we are better able to provide feedback to our campuses and districts. For those members of your teams who are finding it challenging to make time to attend re-calibration efforts, we hope that some of the tools we have provided (criteria for success appendix, webinar reviewing a report with the FOI, etc.) will serve as resources that can be provided for your teammates to use.

**Feedback**: Two week windows are being impacted by reviewing reports to align to FOI as well as completing and reviewing our own reports. Spring break is upon us too.

**Response:** Thank you for this feedback. We know Spring break is causing some challenges. Please reach out to Nicole if the break requires a report extension.

**Vetted Improvement Programs**

**Q:** Will we get a copy of the rubric used to determine approved VIPs?

A: Yes- all success criteria for the rubric are in the Request for Application but we are happy to share the rubric. Our goal is to actually provide some tools to support ESCs in their VIP applications so that they are prepared to meet that criteria.

**Q:** Sorry if I missed this, but will you be letting ESCs know if their VIP submissions are approved prior to them being on the ESF website?

A: All program contacts have been notified of whether or not they are approved. Please reach out to Melissa for individual regional questions.

**Q:** Can SI refer campuses back to the ESC? Since most ESCs are not on the VIP list at this point referring them only to the VIPs puts ESCs at a disadvantage.

A: Specialists know that all ESC TIL Cohorts are VIPs and are encouraged to point campuses to their ESCs for capacity building efforts as much as possible. This will be occurring on Progress #2 and Progress #3 calls. Additionally, ESFFs have been directed to point the campuses to TIL in all regions. We will continue to push for the emphasis of TIL as a capacity builder. Consider internal structures to communicate with your ESC’s TIL team to directly communicate with DCSIs and campus leaders about TIL as a capacity builder.

**Q:** Were there any VIPs approved outside of ESCs?

A: Yes there are some outside organizations. But, again, communication about TIL has been emphasized.

**School Improvement Facilitation Support**

**Q:** Will campuses that move from "F" to "D" just follow "D" campus guidance from this year?

A: To determine whether a campus would follow D guidance, we would have to know how many years of unacceptable ratings the campus had.

2019: 1st year F, 2020: 1st year Overall D; follow Overall D interventions

2019: 2nd year F, 2020: 1st year Overall D; follow Overall D interventions, but should incorporate TAP components into TIP

2019: 3rd year F, 2020: 1st year Overall D; Must implement TAP

2019: 4th year F, 2020: 1st year Overall D; Must implement TAP

2019: 5th year F, 2020: 1st year Overall D; Must implement TAP

**Q:** Will there be interventions for D2 campuses for next year? Trying to plan ahead.

A: Districts should plan on implementing 39A.0545 as written. At this time, for any district or campus that receives a second consecutive Overall D, unacceptable interventions will be applied.

**Q:** Will we have access to the TIP rubric next year?

A: Yes! The TIP rubric is in progress and once there is a workable draft, Nicole will ask for feedback from ESCs and other stakeholders. We will be sharing it with ESCs prior to TIP submissions for next year.

**Q:** Can we ensure that ESC staff are invited to all of the Progress Submission #2 calls?

A: ESC staff should be invited to Progress #2 Submission calls. If there are some challenges where this is not occurring, please reach out to the Regional manager to ensure you receive the appropriate invites.

**Q:**If ESCs are responsible for X% approval on TIP/TAP is it possible for ESCs to be responsible for uploading as an assurance we actually see plans?

**Feedback:** For ESCs that have many campuses we do not all have capacity to upload

A: This is a great point, and one we will need to continue to discuss to ensure that the direction we go for next year is workable and feasible for all ESCs. Let’s continue to think about the best possible solutions here. If you have additional thoughts or ideas, please email Nicole.

Q: How will approval of TIP/TAP be communicated? Will rubric be shared?

A: TAP Approval- will be communicated to LEAs and ESCs via email and phone calls. We will share the rubric that was used to evaluate the strength of the plan with our campuses. However, we will not be sharing the other context that was taken into account in the overall methodology (district efficacy, longitudinal data, gaps and growth) and the individual scores for each of these components.

A: TIP Approval- we are still determining the process for TIP approval for next year. However, we assume we will share the rubric with campuses and LEAs regarding TIP approval.

Feedback: Some final reports may show as late in ISAM, because the portal was not built in January.

A: If there are final reports that need the portal and submission date to be updated, please email Nicole and she can make the necessary changes in ISAM.

Q: Can we get additional information around what it takes to exit Comprehensive status? Will this be impacted by the submitted ESSA amendments?

A: To exit Comprehensive status, a campus must not be in the bottom 5% of Title 1 campuses in the Closing the Gaps Domain (Domain 3) for two consecutive years after being identified Comprehensive. The campus must also improve its Closing the Gaps Domain (Domain 3) by one letter grade by the exit year.

**Grants Updates**

**Q:** Will districts be required to spend x% of SIG funds with ESCs next year or required to participate in a VIP?

A: For the 2020-2021 school year, districts will have the same flexibility as this school year to spend its School Improvement Grant funds. Our division is currently working with Instructional Leadership and the Commissioner to determine the appropriate amount that should be spent on a VIP service for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Q:** We are seeing that many campuses are using their Comprehensive funds to just rehire their PSPs. Will there be any future requirements around using these funds?

A: See the answer above.

**Q:** Spring break is causing issues with the grant submission. Can you extend the due date not to include spring break?

A: Extensions can be given on a case by case basis. Please have the district work with its School Improvement Specialist if an extension is needed.

**Q:** Will changes to the Campus Allocation Document also need to include a "formal amendment" in egrants?

A: No. The School Improvement Grant is a district level grant that is applied for through eGrants for all of its Comprehensive campuses. The Campus Allocation Document allows the district to document how it will allocate its School Improvement Grant funds to each campus. If the district has made changes to campus allocations then it should resubmit a revised Campus Allocation Document to SIDivision@tea.texas.gov

**Q:** Can you send us a clean copy of the campus allocation document

A:The Campus Allocation Document will be an attachment with the newsletter.

**Q:** Do you know when the carryover will populate for the SIG?

A: If a district has any carry over amount from the 2018-2019 School Improvement Grant, it must log into eGrants and amend its 2019-2020 School Improvement Grant. When the district amends the grant, the carry over amount will populate in the BS6004 - Program Budget Summary and Support. The district would need to complete the Purpose of Amendment and update the Program Budget Summary and Support before resubmitting.

**Q:** On the Campus Funding Report, the campus tab, is the Total Award from the NOGA or only the money going to the identified campus?

A: Sorry, I gave such a bad example during the TETN. Districts should include the amount awarded to the campus for the School Improvement Grant plus any carryover in Cell C3. Then in Cell C4, the district should include the amount allocated to the campus. For example, a district was awarded $50,000 for one comprehensive progress campus and decided to reserve $10,000. The district would place $50,000 in cell C3 and then $40,000 in cell C4. The $10,000 will be accounted for on the district tab under LEA Reserve.

**Q:** Do districts include carry forward funds in the MY funding reports or only include them if they were budgeted and expended before 3/13?

A: Districts should include both its total award for the 2019-2020 grant and any carry over funds from the 2018-2019 School Improvement Grant in the Funding Report.

**Q:** Will TEA be covering the costs of ESC staff to attend Courageous Principals like last year or can we pay for that out of the grant?

A: The Comprehensive Leadership Grant can cover the cost of ESC staff if the staff members support comprehensive campuses. If the staff member does not support comprehensive campuses then the ESC could use its Comprehensive Cycle 2 grant to cover the cost if the staff member supports Targeted or Additional Targeted Support campuses. Deloitte will be limiting the number of ESC staff to allow for more campus staff to be in attendance. It is quite possible that we will be limited to 2-3 ESC staff across the state per offering since the wait list continues to grow.

**DCSI-related questions**

**Q:** Clarify: Are we focused on the voice of the DCSI or the campus principal? It seems our focus keeps changing. It seems we keep juggling back and forth.

A: Our focus is on the key role of the DCSI. It will take us a few years to build the capacity of the DCSI so that they are best positioned to carry out the expectations for that role. This feedback is appreciated and we will work to ensure that communication is clearer for next year.

**Feedback:** We need an intensive DCSI training on roles, responsibilities, and all around capacity building.

**Feedback:** Principals are overwhelmed and DCSIs are opting to step aside. It will not benefit change management for new ESF tools to focus primarily on principal

**Feedback:** The responsibility of the DCSI needs to be conveyed better to them next year. Many of them are shoving the responsibility back down to the campus principals.

A: Thank you for this feedback, which will be helpful while developing the revised DCSI Academy. We are currently working on additional resources for DCSIs to roll out before the 2020-2021 school year. TEA will be extending an invitation to ESC staff to serve as key stakeholders in the development of the DCSI Academy.

**CES**

**Q:** We have not had any communication from our external facilitators? How will ESCs know who the external facilitators are?

A: If you are looking for a list of eligible external ESF Facilitators, please contact Keith Thompson at CES and he will be able to provide you with that list. Once an external ESF Facilitator has been assigned to a campus, CES initiates an email between the ESF Facilitator, the DCSI, and the SI Lead at the ESC.