**Part III: TURNAROUND ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION**

**Background and Overview.** Districts with one or more schools identified under the Massachusetts District and School Accountability System for focused/targeted and broad/comprehensive support are eligible for this grant opportunity.[[1]](#footnote-1) There are four [Turnaround Assistance Grant (TAG) categories](#GrantCategories) within which schools are eligible: Planning Grants, Implementation Grants, School Redesign Planning Grants, and Subgroup Performance Only Grants.

Across all four grant categories, the grant-funded activities that districts and schools engage in are expected to fall into two broad categories:

1. Planning and Pre-Implementation activities
2. Activities supporting the implementation of turnaround plans (or subgroup improvement plans).

**Guidance and Resources.** Robust guidance to support schools in all phases of planning and implementation can be found in the Massachusetts [Turnaround Plan Guidance](http://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/guidance.html). Districts can also refer to the ***Fund Use Recommendations for the Turnaround Assistance Grant (TAG)*** in the *Additional Information* section of the TAG RFP for research-based suggestions for using funds for planning and implementation activities.

**An Important Note about Evidence-Based Interventions.** In order to meet both state and federal requirements, schools with turnaround plans are now expected to incorporate *at least one one* strategy backed by evidence that meets the criteria from one of the *top three evidence tiers* [as defined by ESSA](https://ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/guidanceuseseinvestment.pdf)**.** If a district is requesting funding to support implementation of one or more turnaround plans, the evidence-based intervention(s) schools will utilize need to be listed and described in the Turnaround Assistance Grant Application.

DESE’s [“How Do We Know Initiative”](http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/howdoweknow/) resources can help support districts’ efforts in meeting this funding requirement. Schools requesting funds for developing turnaround plans should also consult these pages as they select evidence-based interventions to help them achieve their turnaround goals. If you require further support in this area, please contact Kendra Winner at [kwinner@doe.mass.edu](mailto:kwinner@doe.mass.edu)

[**Turnaround Assistance Grant Application Template**](#Template)**.** Once a district determines how grant funds will be utilized in its eligible school(s), it can complete the template, which essentially serves as the grant narrative.

**Turnaround Assistance Grant (TAG) Categories[[2]](#footnote-2)**

1. **PLANNING:** Planning grants ranging between $25,000-$30,000 will be awarded to districts to support schools that will engage in the turnaround planning process in SY18-19. Funding may be used to support activities related to the development of a turnaround plan to be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year. Districts may apply for multiple, eligible schools. The chart should include each school the district is serving. Final turnaround plans for each school must be submitted to DESE upon completion in spring 2019 by a date to be determined by the Department. Schools engaging in Planning grants can select one of two vendors (American Institutes for Research (AIR) or SchoolWorks) to conduct a Turnaround Site Visit. ESE will contract directly with the selected vendor using grant funding above the district’s allocation in this grant opportunity. More information about the TSV process can be found in the *Turnaround Site Visit and Monitoring Site Visits – FAQ* document in the *Additional Information* section of the TAG RFP.
2. **IMPLEMENTATION:** Funds ranging between $40,000-$45,000 to support the Implementation Phase will be awarded to districts to support and enhance the implementation of turnaround plan(s) currently in place in eligible school(s). For each school the grant will serve, the district **must submit a turnaround plan** in EdGrants. Items and activities listed in the chart below are expected to align with challenges, strategies, and/or priority areas for improvement as outlined in the turnaround plan. Please be sure to include the page number(s) in the turnaround plan(s) that contains the challenge, strategy, or priority area to be enhanced with grant funding. The chart should include each school the district is serving. Schools engaging in Implementation grants can select one of two vendors (American Institutes for Research (AIR) or SchoolWorks) to conduct a Turnaround Site Visit. ESE will contract directly with the selected vendor using grant funding above the district’s allocation in this grant opportunity. More information about the TSV process can be found in the *Turnaround Site Visit and Monitoring Site Visits – FAQ* document in the *Additional Information* section of the TAG RFP.
3. **SCHOOL REDESIGN PLANNING GRANT** *(i.e., SRG application planning phase)***:** Districts with schools in the lowest 3rd percentile can select one school to apply for FY20-FY22 School Redesign Grant funding. Information on the grant program can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/redesign/>. Each school selecting this option can use up to $35,000 in FY19 on planning and pre-implementation activities. Schools must be Title I eligible by the start of the 2019-2020 school year to be qualified for SRG funding. Final turnaround plans will be submitted as part of the SRG competitive grant application process in the spring of 2019 by a date determined by the Department. Schools that select this option will schedule a Monitoring Site Visit with American Institutes for Research (AIR). ESE will contract directly with the vendor using grant funding above the district’s allocation in this grant opportunity. More information about the MSV process can be found in the *Turnaround Site Visit and Monitoring Site Visits – FAQ* document in the *Additional Information* section of the TAG RFP.
4. **SUBGROUP PERFORMANCE ONLY:** Schools above the lowest 10th percentile with low-performing subgroups can use up to $10,000 on activities aligned with conducting a needs assessment and probing for root cause of low performance in identified subgroups and developing and implementing strategies to improve outcomes for students in identified subgroups. The final plan should be approved and monitored by the district as per federal ESSA requirements. Schools in this category will not receive a site visit as part of this grant opportunity.

**PART III: TURNAROUND ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION TEMPLATE**

* The **Part III:** ***Turnaround Assistance Grant Application*** is a required form and must be submitted in EdGrants as part of your complete application.
* Districts will submit one grant narrative application template that consolidates information on the planning and implementation activities and anticipated expenditures for those activities across all eligible schools.
* The *Summary* and *Grant-Funded Activities* tables in this template must both be filled in completely in order to be considered for funding.
* Once the template is complete, save it with the file name *FY19 Turnaround Assistance Grant Application [Name of district]* and upload it as an attachment in EdGrants.

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**Summary Table**

*In the table below, please indicate the name of the district the total amount of funds being requested. List each school that will be receiving Turnaround Assistance Grant funds and for each indicate the grades it serves, and the* [*TAG grant category*](#GrantCategories) *within which will receive funds. If the school is receiving funds to implement activities from an existing turnaround plan, provide a brief description of the evidence-based intervention(s) TAG funds will be supporting. (If necessary, rows may be added to this table)*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **District** | ***(insert name of district here)*** | | | |
| **Total Funds Requested:** | $ | | | |
| **School** | | **Grades Served** | **TAG Grant Category** *(i.e., Planning, Implementation, School Redesign Planning, or Subgroups)1* | **Description of Evidence-Based Interventions** *(schools receiving TAG funds for implementation only)2* |
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1 Districts should identify one grant category for each school. For instance, if the district selects a school performing in the third percentile to apply for competitive School Redesign Grant funding, that school should be identified in the School Redesign Planning category, even though it could also have received funding through the Planning grant category.

2 For schools under the Implementation category, descriptions in this column highlight out the evidence-based practices that implementation grant funds are supporting. Please review [**An Important Note about Evidence-Based Interventions**](#EvidenceBased) described in the background/overview section of this document for additional information. This cell will be blank for schools receiving funding through the Planning, School Redesign Planning, and Subgroups Only grant categories.

**Turnaround Assistance Grant: Funded Activities/Strategies**

In the table below please list each activity/strategy funds will support. For each activity/strategy listed:

* indicate whether it supports planning or implementation of the turnaround plan;
* provide a brief description of how the activity/strategy supports planning or implementation and how funds will be used;
* indicate which school(s) will engage in this activity;
* provide the anticipated total cost of this activity/strategy across all schools engaged in it.
* If necessary, rows may be added to this table.

| **District** | ***(insert name of district here)*** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity/Strategy1 | Type of activity:  P=Planning  I=Implementation2 | Description: Provide a **brief** explanation for how the item/activity supports and/or enhances the development or implementation of the turnaround plan (***one paragraph maximum per activity***). | List schools engaged in this activity/strategy2 | Anticipated Item/Activity Cost3 |
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1Districts may budget funds to support district activities/strategies that directly support the one of the four grant categories at multiple schools. Please flag these as district-level activities in the Activity/Strategy column and indicate the schools to which it is providing supports in the *Schools engaged in this activity/strategy* column.

2Additional information required for districts requesting funds for Implementation Activities: In the **List schools engaged in this activity/strategy** column, next to the name of each school, please reference the page number(s) indicating where this strategy appears in its turnaround plan. Reminder: districts must submit the most current turnaround plan for each school for which it is requesting funds to implement those plans.

3District Indirect Costs should be considered when estimating final costs. See “Indirect Cost” tab in Budget Workbook.

1. A complete list of eligible districts, district grant allocations by funding source, and schools eligible to use TAG funds appears in the ***Turnaround Assistance Grants: District Allotments*** document attached in the *Additional Information* section of the TAG RFP. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Fund use must be consistent with applicable state and/or federal requirements. Cost calculations should reflect realistic estimates, with all final costs uploaded into EdGrants. All expenditures will be closely reviewed as they relate to the priorities of this grant opportunity and align directly with proposed turnaround implementation and/or planning activities aligned to evidence-based turnaround practices. Funding will only be approved after programmatic and budgetary reviews by Department staff and upon review by the Office of the Governor. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)