**Frequently Asked Questions about Targeted Site Visits (TSVs) and Monitoring Site Visits (MSVs)**

As part of their participation in the Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG), most schools will receive either a Targeted Site Visit (TSV) or a Monitoring Site Visit (MSV) from an external provider during the course of SY 2021-22. *Schools that are eligible for Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) funding solely on the basis of low performing student groups will not receive a TSV or MSV.*

Please note: SSoS is engaging in a process to align our assistance model to focus on culturally responsive practices. This course of action includes reimagining the MSV and TSV process. School year 2021-22 will likely be the final year of the MSV and TSV processes and associated rubrics as they have existed since 2014. More information on the redesign of SSoS’s monitoring process will be shared throughout the year, and we look forward to soliciting your input as we plan a new approach.

DESE contracts with vendors that have conducted site visits in past years expired on June 30, 2021. SSoS is working through the procurement process to bring on a set of vendors to conduct both MSVs and TSVs. We will notify districts once the procurement process has concluded, and vendors are selected for the work in FY22.

***Which schools get a Monitoring Site Visit (MSV)?***

For the 2021-22 school year, all schools that are designated as underperforming on the Massachusetts District and School Accountability System and those receiving their final year of School Redesign Grant (SRG) funding will receiving a two-day MSV by an approved external partner procured by DESE. More information on the vendor and MSV process will be sent in the fall of 2021.

***Which schools get a Targeted Site Visit (TSV)?***

For the 2021-22 school year, all schools eligible for TAG, excluding underperforming schools and schools identified solely for low student group performance, can opt in for a TSV in SY 2021-22. SSoS will contract directly with selected vendors for eligible schools. More information on the vendor(s) and TSV process will be sent in the fall of 2021.

***What is the purpose of the TSV/MSVs?***

The TSVs and MSVs provide schools with objective information on the extent to which key [Turnaround Practices](http://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/howitworks/turnaround-practices-508.pdf) are being implemented in their schools. More information on the MSV and TSV process can be found on DESE’s [website](http://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/howitworks/monitoring.html).

* Schools developing sustainable improvement plans will find the site visit reports to be a valuable source of additional information that they can incorporate into their self-assessments and root cause analyses.
* Schools applying for implementation grants can use the information provided in the TSV/MSV reports to take stock of progress they are making in implementing turnaround practices and can compare their progress over multiple years. TSV/MSV reports can be a valuable resource in developing the Sustainable Improvement Plan renewals.
* DESE’s Statewide System of Support uses site visit reports to plan supports for schools, assess aggregate progress across all TSV/MSV schools, and inform DESE’s research, practices, and policies for sustainable school improvement.

***What is the difference between the Monitoring Site Visit and the Targeted Site Visit?***

The MSV is a more comprehensive 2-day visit that involves on-site interviews and focus groups, classroom observations, and a teacher survey conducted prior to the site visit. The vendor that will conduct MSVs in SY 2021-22 is TBD.

The TSV involves a briefer 1 – 1.5 day site visit. Schools may have a choice between multiple state-approved vendors to conduct TSVs. The vendor or vendors that will conduct TSVS in SY 2021-22 is TBD>.

SSoS and selected site visit vendors will work closely to ensure that the MSVs and TSVs are strongly aligned with one another and consistently provide high quality, useful feedback to districts and schools.

***Do we pay for the site visits out of our grant funds?***

No. DESE will pay the vendors directly with Title I or state targeted assistance grant funds for MSVs or TSVs for schools that meet TAG eligibility criteria noted above. Districts can leverage DESE’s TSV procurement to contract directly with selected vendors for schools that want to engage in the TSV process that are not eligible through SSoS criteria.

***When do the site visits take place?***

SSoS expects to have vendors selected for both MSVs and TSVs by December 2021. Districts will be notified when vendors selection is complete and provided with instructions on how to engage with vendors to begin scheduling visits to begin in January 2022.

***Will site visits be in-person or virtual?***

This decision will be made closer to the start of visits in early January 2022, in full consideration of federal, state, and local guidance relative to public health.

***Who do I contact at DESE for more information on the MSV or TSV process?***

You can email Erica Champagne, Director of the Office of Effective Practices, at erica.champagne@mass.gov.