**FY26 Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) Narrative**

*The Center for School and District Partnership (CSDP) is committed to advancing educational equity through supporting schools and districts in fostering sense of belonging, grade-appropriate instruction, and strategic planning and coherence.*

**Background and Overview:** This grant is intended to support the implementation of needs identified in the [district instructional prioritization](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/guidance.html) process or similar process used to determine the district’s highest priority for improvement. Districts are encouraged to use funds to support the implementation of district priorities, with specific attention paid to schools that need differentiated assistance.[[1]](#footnote-2) The CSDP has consolidated and updated many of our resources into a [Coherence Guidebook.](https://www.doe.mass.edu/csdp/guidebook/default.html) This can serve as a valuable resource in determining TAG activities.

The purpose of this grant:

* connect with the priority(ies) the district already identified in the [district instructional prioritization](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/guidance.html) plan or similar plan that outlines instructional priorities
* advance equity and racial equity across schools
* incorporate [evidence-based strategies](http://www.doe.mass.edu/research/howdoweknow/)
* utilize a continuous cycle of improvement to implement and assess the outcomes of identified district priorities over time

The activities the district selects will promote educational equity by providing supports that align with [DESE’s Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/vision-supports.pdf) through:

* Cultivating systems to support the [whole student](https://www.doe.mass.edu/CSDP/)
* Promotion of [Deeper Learning](https://www.doe.mass.edu/csdp/guidebook/coherence-guidebook.pdf)
* Develop and sustain a diverse, [culturally responsive](https://www.doe.mass.edu/instruction/culturally-sustaining/default.html) well-prepared workforce

*For SSoS Supported Districts Only*: FY26 district instructional prioritization plans are due to DESE by **June 30, 2025** (send to [SSoS1@mass.gov](mailto:SSoS1@mass.gov)). Districts will ***not*** need to submit the district instructional prioritization plans again as part of their TAG application. DESE TAG review teams will have access to the district plans. Districts should feel free in the table below to direct us to specific sections of the district plan where the language is applicable.

**Guidance and Resources:** Detailed guidance to support schools in all phases of implementation can be found in the Massachusetts [**District Prioritization Guidance**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/guidance.html). Districts can also refer to the ***Fund Use Recommendations for the Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG)*** in the *Additional Information* section of the [TAG RFP](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2025/222-325/) for research-based suggestions for using funds.

1. **Grant Expectations**: Recipients of TAG funding should expect to engage in assistance activities with Department staff from the Center for School and District Partnership (CSDP) and/or the Statewide System of Support (SSoS), and in DESE-sponsored progress monitoring efforts.
2. **Targeted Assistance Grant Narrative:**

* The TAG Narrative is a required application component. Please upload this document into GEM$.
* Districts will list all substantive TAG activities in the table below.

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

Please list each activity/strategy TAG funds will support in the table below. If necessary, rows may be added to this table.

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| **Activity** (ex. Professional development to all elementary teachers to support implementation of new curriculum.) | **Connection to District Instructional Priority** (ex. High Quality Instructional Materials for literacy in elementary schools) | Description: Provide either a **brief** explanation for how the activity/strategy supports and/or enhances the implementation of the identified district instructional priority (***one paragraph maximum per activity***) or direct us to the location in the district instructional prioritization plan where the language is located (page or section). | **Cost** | **Who is Supported by this Activity?**  (Ex. 1. The district  OR  2. All schools  OR  3. X Elementary School, Y Middle School, and Z High School) |
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1. Districts can use TAG funds to support all schools, though schools that had a designation of broad/comprehensive or targeted/focused support based on 2023 Massachusetts Accountability System determinations should directly benefit from TAG funding. A list of these schools can be found on the [DESE website](https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/accountability.aspx). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)