

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

To support PSUs and schools in navigating requirements and best practices for CSI / TSI designations, the following FAQ provides clear guidance on expectations, documents, and timelines. This resource consolidated common questions during webinars, trainings, and technical assistance, and includes direct links to tools and references when applicable.

1. Is the school required to accept PRC 0105?

The PSU is not required to accept PRC 0105 funding. However, the PSU will still be required to adhere to the compliance requirement associated with its identification.

2. What is NCStar?

NCStar is a required platform for all CSI / ATSI identified schools to submit the Comprehensive Plan Report with required indicators, uploading the Annual School Resource Allocation Review Self-Assessment (RAR), Meeting Notes, etc.

For training or questions related to getting set up in NCStar, please contact:

Suzanne Owen at suzanne.owen@dpi.nc.gov, who serves as the NCStar contact for the North Central, Piedmont-Triad, Sandhills, and Southwest Regions

or

Natalie Sasser natalie.sasser@dpi.nc.gov, who serves as the NCStar contact for the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Western Regions.

You can also review the [School Improvement Planning and NCStar website \(https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/office-school-improvement/school-improvement-planning-and-ncstar#ncstar-info\)](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/office-school-improvement/school-improvement-planning-and-ncstar#ncstar-info) for additional information and resources. Under the NCStar Resources, you will find:

- Recorded trainings and exemplars
- Recent presentations and planning/working templates
- WiseWays links and a Checklist of Best Practices
- Indicator documents
- The NCStar SBE Strategic Goals Plan
- MTSS, Needs Assessment, and EVAAS resources

3. Where can I find a list of the specific requirements for schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) / Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)?

Resources outlining the specific requirements for schools identified as CSI / TSI, along with recent recording, presentations, and information on upcoming webinars, can be found on the following webpage link: [Comprehensive and Targeted Support \(https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/comprehensive-and-targeted-support#Tab-Resourcesrepresentationsrecordingsnon-regulatoryguidance-7788\)](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/comprehensive-and-targeted-support#Tab-Resourcesrepresentationsrecordingsnon-regulatoryguidance-7788)

4. Who are the appropriate contacts for ongoing CSI / TSI questions and support?

CTS Section Chief: Dr. James Popp – james.popp@dpi.nc.gov - (984) 236-2801

Program Administrator	Assigned Regions	Phone
Julia Higdon julia.higdon@dpi.nc.gov	Southwest and Western	(828) 361-5277
Dr. Penny Crooks penny.crooks@dpi.nc.gov	Northwest and Piedmont-Triad*	(984) 236-2978
Dr. Richard Lewis richard.lewis@dpi.nc.gov	North Central and Sandhills	(919) 548-6435
Tenisea Madry tenisea.madry@dpi.nc.gov	Northeast and Southeast Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG)	(984) 236-2886

*Charters assigned to Dr. Crooks not in the Northwest or Piedmont-Triad Regions (24N, 26C, 32D, 32R, 33A, 36G, 36C, 36B)

5. Who do I contact regarding CSI / TSI identification and exit criteria?

For information or clarification regarding identification or exit criteria data, please contact the PSU Testing Coordinator or your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

Regional Accountability Coordinator Contact Information:

Brent Caldwell Brent.caldwell@dpi.nc.gov	Western	984-236-2055
John Worley john.worley@dpi.nc.gov	Northwest	984-236-2056
Scott Frye scott.frye@dpi.nc.gov	Southwest	984-236-2057
Patricia Benbow patricia.benbow@dpi.nc.gov	Northeast	984-236-2058
Melinda Fullwood melinda.fullwood@dpi.nc.gov	Southeast	984-236-2065
Anthony Hinson	Central	984-236-2060

anthony.hinson@dpi.nc.gov		
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6. What are the key due dates or submission deadlines?

Please click the following link to locate and review the Year-at-a-Glance: 2025-26 ATSI / CSI Year-at-a-Glance (<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/comprehensive-and-targeted-support#Tab-Resourcessegpresentationsrecordingsnon-regulatoryguidance-7788>) for key due dates or submission deadlines. This link is located on the CTS website.

7. Do CSI and ATSI parent notification letters need to be uploaded into CCIP?

CSI and ATSI parent notification letters are not required to be uploaded in CCIP this year. Instead, the PSU Support Plan should document when and how the parent letters were distributed. The PSU must also retain copies locally, as they may be requested during a monitoring visit.

8. Where and when should the school-level and PSU-level Resource Allocation Reviews (RARs) be submitted?

The school-level Resource Allocation Review (RAR) must be uploaded into NCStar under indicator D.1.02 or CSI-ATSI.02. The PSU-level RAR must be submitted in CCIP under Related Documents in the FY-26 PRC 0105 application shell. As a best practice, PSUs are encouraged to establish an internal procedure and timeline to ensure all school-level RARs are submitted early enough for the PSU to complete and finalize the PSU-level RAR accurately and on time.

9. Is NCStar required for schools identified as TSI-CU?

No, NCStar is not currently a required platform for schools identified as TSI-CU. However, because the PSU is responsible for certain compliance and monitoring requirements tied to TSI-CU identification, the use of NCStar is recommended to support documentation and progress monitoring;. NCStar is required for all CSI and ATSI identified schools.

10. Can PRC 0105 funds be used to support schools identified as TSI-CU?

Yes, PRC 0105 funds may be used to support schools identified as TSI-CU. However, all CSI and ATSI schools must also receive support. All support must align with an approved CSI / TSI plan. The PSU has flexibility in determining how funds are allocated among identified schools, as long as decisions are based on data such as the needs assessment and the Resource Allocation Review.

11. Are Parent Notification Letters required for schools identified as TSI-CU?

Parent Notification Letters are not currently required for schools identified as TSI-CU, although they are recommended as a best practice to ensure transparency and communication with families. Parent Notification Letters are required annually for all schools identified as CSI or ATSI.

12. Will the PSU be required to provide monthly feedback in NCStar for CSI / ATSI identified schools?

Yes. Ongoing and meaningful monthly feedback from the PSU, documented within NCStar, is a key driver of effective school improvement. While many PSUs provide coaching and communication to principals through calls or emails, entering that feedback directly into NCStar ensures transparency and shared ownership among all School Improvement Team members. Consistent documentation also helps PSUs maintain shared ownership when reviewing Low Performing school plans each month and provides a structured opportunity to offer targeted coaching that keeps School Improvement Teams focused on the goals and indicators outlined in their School Improvement Plan. Federally designated schools are required to include specific indicators in their School Improvement Plan, and PSUs should address progress on these indicators within their monthly NCStar feedback to ensure alignment with federal requirements and targeted improvement efforts. When PSU feedback is visible, intentional, and aligned to each school's improvement priorities, it strengthens collaboration, fosters accountability, and supports sustained growth for all schools, particularly those identified as Low Performing.

In addition, PSUs must complete and submit in NCStar the annual PSU Feedback Form, which is located in NCStar and can also be viewed on the [CTS website \(https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/comprehensive-and-targeted-support#Tab-Resourcespresentationsrecordingsnon-regulatoryguidance-7788\)](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/comprehensive-and-targeted-support#Tab-Resourcespresentationsrecordingsnon-regulatoryguidance-7788) under the Resources Tab.

13. Are School Improvement Teams required to post meeting agendas and minutes, and how should they be maintained and shared?

School Improvement Team meetings are subject to the open meetings requirements and the principal and PSUs are responsible for ensuring compliance. Minutes of all meetings must be maintained as public records. Effective practice requires that the team convene at least once each month, with minutes linked in NCStar to provide the public with transparent access. Meeting minutes should reflect substantive discussions of goal progress, data analysis, and selected indicators, demonstrating that the team consistently monitors and aligns its work with instructional, operational, and budget priorities.

For assistance in uploading Agendas and Meeting Minutes into NCStar, [please review this video.](#)

14. What does ATSI and TSI-AT stand for, and are they the same?

Yes, ATSI and TSI-AT are used interchangeably and are considered acronyms for Targeted Support and Improvement – Additional Targeted Support.

15. What are the required indicators in NCStar?

Identification	Required Indicators for NCStar 1.0	Required Indicators for NCStar 2.0
• ATSI • CSI-AT • CSI-LG • CSI-LP	D.1.02 - Resource Allocation Review	CSI-ATSI .02 - Resource Allocation Review
• ATSI • CSI-AT • CSI-LP	A.4.01 - Evidence Based Intervention	G1.02 - Evidence Based Intervention
• CSI-LG	A.4.10 - Evidence Based Intervention	CSI-LG .01 - Evidence Based Intervention

16. What qualifies as direct support to identified schools versus the up to 20% allowable for district-level administrative costs, Charter Management Organization support, or Institutions of Higher Education Lab School support under PRC 0105?

Direct Support to Schools refers to activities and expenditures that directly impact identified schools. These may include PSU-led initiatives designed to improve student outcomes, such as remediation programs, instructional coaching, or tutoring. Direct support should be coded using 50000 Instructional Services purpose codes. This can be coded at the site code 00000 or school level site codes.

The Administrative Allowance (up to 20%) may be used for system-wide activities that facilitate or manage the implementation of school supports at the district level. These expenses should be coded using 60000 System-wide support services purpose codes and may include efforts such as district-level data analysis, coordination of improvement efforts, and oversight or implementation. This should be coded at the site code 00000.

17. With the application and budgets due Dec. 15th, what should we do if specific plans for how the funds will be expended have not yet been finalized?

FY-26 is a planning year. It is completely acceptable for initial budgets to include some unbudgeted or Supplies and Materials codes with the intent to submit an amendment later, once CSI / TSI plans are finalized and specific funding needs are identified.

18. Can FY-26 PRC 0105 funds be used for incentives or bonuses?

Object Codes 01800, 01810, and 01830 appear in the Chart of Accounts for PRC 0105 because the chart is tied to previous funding approval. However, these Object Codes for incentives/bonuses are not an allowable use of funds under FY-26 PRC 0105.

Disclaimer: This FAQ document is a living resource and will be updated as additional guidance becomes available or clarifications are needed.