



Ninth Grade Success – Funding Opportunity

The Ninth Grade Success model is an evidence-based approach to improving ninth grade outcomes and high school graduation rates. It is organized around four main components:

- Ninth Grade Success Team
- Data System
- Instructional Support
- Transition Programs

Building on the progress of the Ninth Grade Success Grant, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is identifying opportunities that support implementation of effective ninth grade practices.

Funding Opportunity-Empowering Action for School Improvement (EASI)

CDE manages an annual grant opportunity that distributes state and federal school improvement funding.

- For the 2024 application, a new route provides funding for schools who are implementing a strategy from CDE's [Major Improvement Strategy Guides](#) such as the Ninth Grade Success model.
- Schools on the state Accountability Clock, or schools identified for improvement in the federal accountability system, are eligible to apply for funding.

Applicants who are awarded will be invited to participate in ongoing learning activities that are run as part of the Ninth Grade Success Grant.

Background: Ninth Grade Success Grant

Since 2019, Colorado's Ninth Grade Success Grant has provided funding to improve the ninth-grade student experience to ensure that students develop the skills they need to stay on-track to tenth grade and ultimately in graduating from high school.

- **Cohort 1 (2019-2024):** The cohort graduation rate improved and six of nine schools improved their four year graduation rates.
- **Cohort 2 (Fall 2023):** CDE awarded funds to 26 districts in January 2024 to start an initial 2 ½ year implementation.
- **Professional Learning:** CDE convenes grantees throughout the year to visit sites, share strategies and resources, and analyze progress.

EASI Grant – Dollar amounts

- Up to \$20,000 per school in Year 1 (2024-25)
- Up to \$80,000 per school in Year 2 (2025-26)
- Up to \$80,000 per school in Year 3 (2026-27)

EASI Grant - Key dates:

- **December 4, 2024:** Application is due
- **January/February 2025:** Grants are awarded, beginning of a planning/implementation phase

Application materials



Dropout Prevention Office



CDE's Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement administers grant programs, training, and technical assistance to improve student engagement with the goal to improve the dropout, graduation and completion rates every year.

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