

# Key Features of an Approvable Continuous Improvement Plan

ESSA Academy 2025

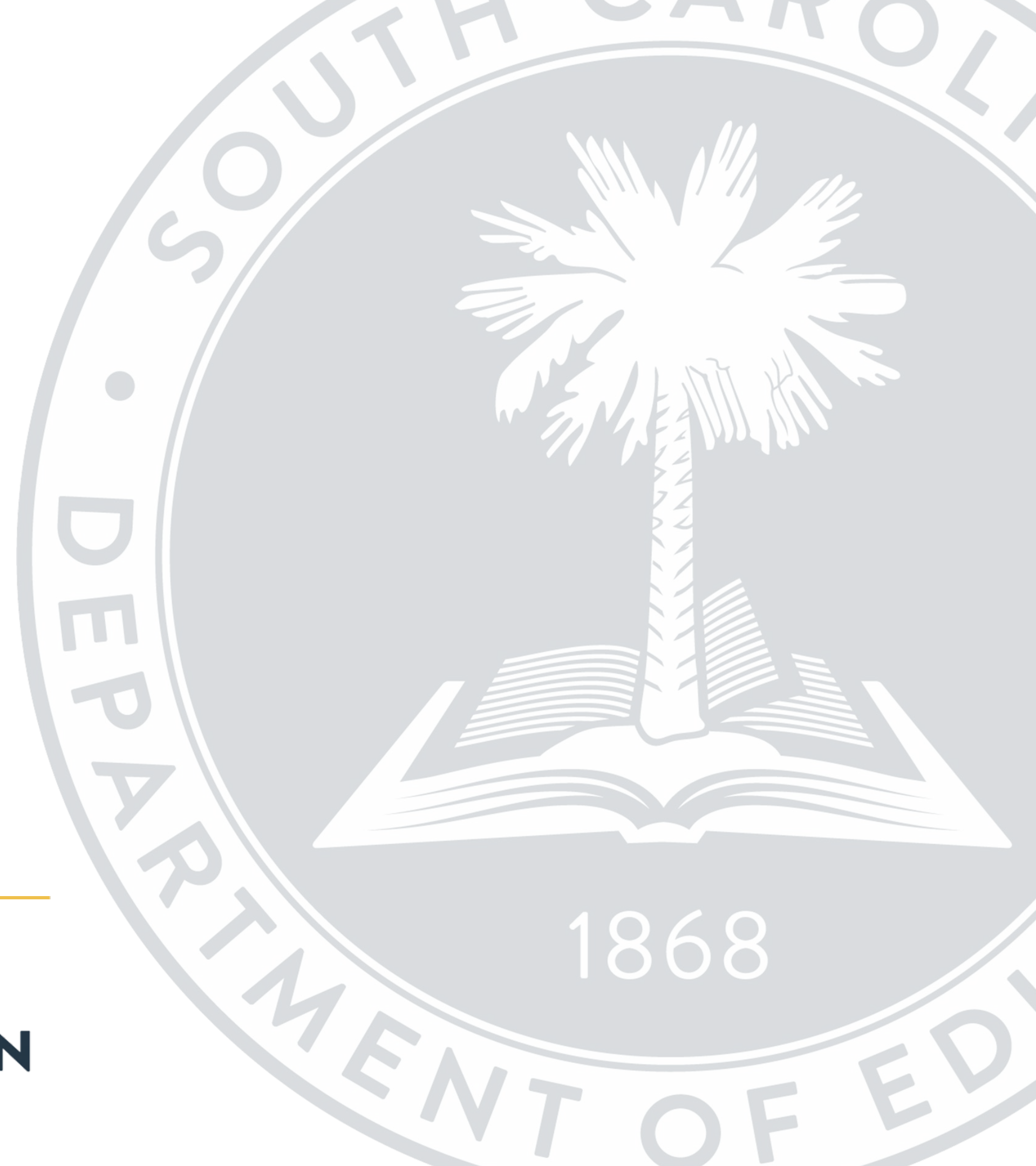
School Improvement Managers

March 24-25, 2025

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**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



# Agenda

## Continuous Improvement Plan

- State Goal and Importance
- Continuous Improvement Plan
- Alignment
- Monitoring for Impact
- Approvability
- Process of Approval



# School Improvement Managers

School Improvement Manager	Districts
Glynis Brooks	Chester, Fairfield, Lexington One, Lexington Two, Lexington Three, Richland One, York 1, York 2, York 3, York 4
Teresa Gamble	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence Two, Florence Three, Florence Five, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington 4, Marion, Marlboro, Richland Two, Saluda
Dr. Jennifer Gnann	South Carolina Public Charter School District
Faith Gordon	Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Edgefield, Greenwood 50, Greenwood 51, Greenwood 52, Hampton, Laurens 55, Laurens 56, Orangeburg
Dr. Bentley Oates	Beaufort, Clarendon, Dorchester 2, Dorchester 4, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Sumter
David Long	Anderson 5, Cherokee, Greenville, Spartanburg 1,2,3,5,6,7, Oconee, Pickens and Union
Dr. Otis Reed	The Charter Institute at Erskine, Limestone Charter Association
Denise Covert-Wilson	Florence One, Allendale, Jasper, Charleston, McCormick, Colleton, Williamsburg



# Agency Mission/Vision

Every child is college, career, or military ready. By 2030, at least 75% of students at or above grade level.



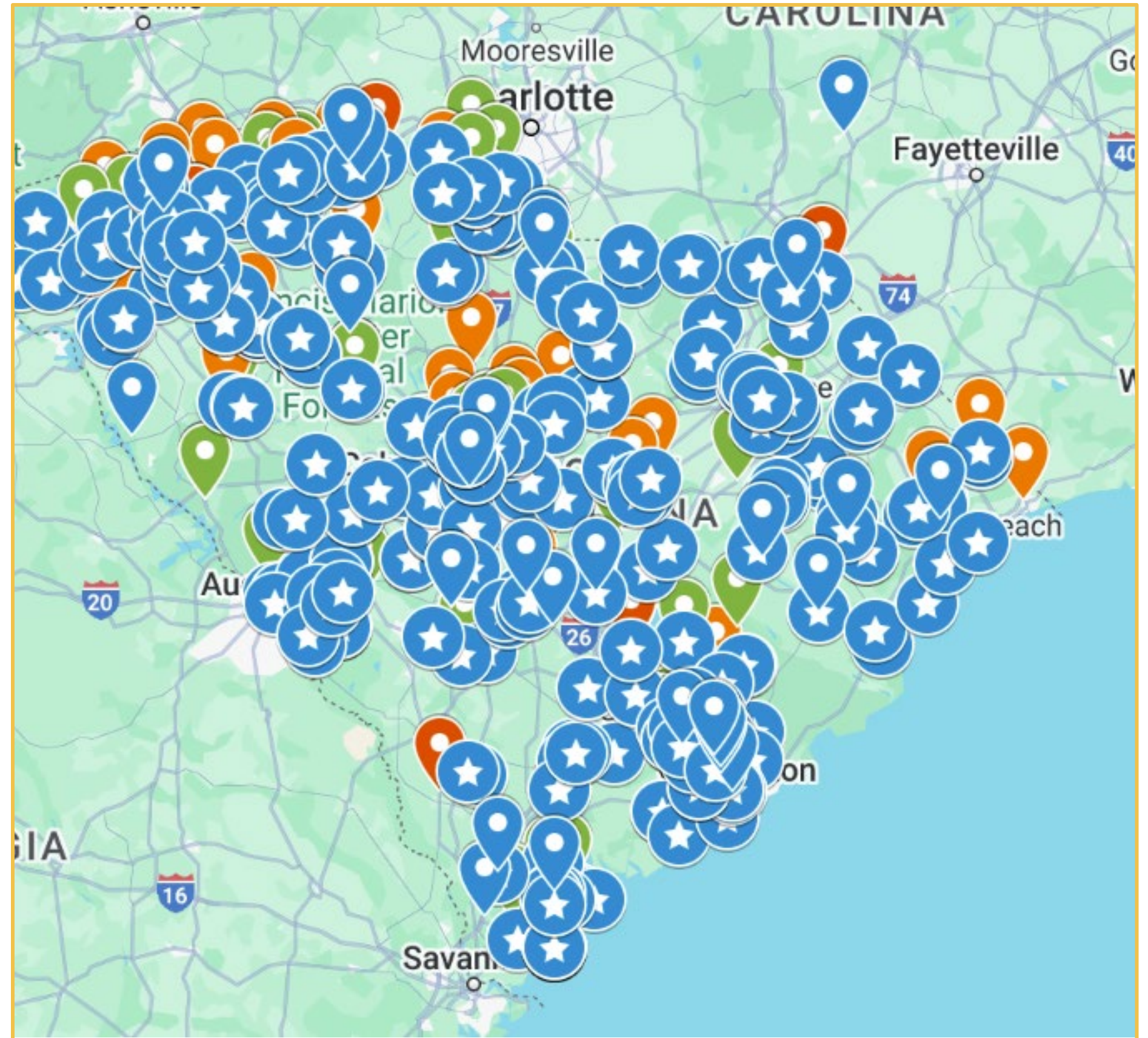


# Why Continuous School Improvement is Important?

Each dot is a school with a designation across the state. There are more designations than there are schools across the state.

"The school's purpose is to ensure high levels of learning for all students."

Kramer, S. V. & Shuhl, S. (2017). *School Improvement for All*. Solution Tree Press.



# What is the Continuous Improvement Plan?

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## Purpose

- Target specific areas of improvement
- Serves as a Progress Monitoring Tool
- Serves as a planning document for the funding application in GEMS

## Phases

- Phase 1: Diagnose
- Phase 2: Select and Phase 3: Plan
- Phase 4: Implement and Phase 5: Monitor
- Phase 6: Revise
- [Continuous Improvement Plan](#)





# Is the Continuous Improvement Plan Aligned?

## **Comprehensive Needs Assessment**

- Data/Root Cause Analysis
- Goals and activities
- Evaluating activities for effectiveness

## **SMART Goals**

- Aligned with goals in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Related to reading and math
- Related to the identified subgroup and area of need

## **Evidence-Based Interventions and Strategies**

- Strong or moderate level
- Applicable to needs the student population
- Funding Application

## **Funding Application**

- Reflection of Continuous Improvement Plans (activities and funding)



# Monitoring for Growth and Impact

The MOA and GAN outline the responsibility to monitor goals and activities for growth and impact. Districts and schools are encouraged to reflect on their monitoring practices and seek ways to improve those practices.

- District Level

- How are districts checking in with schools to measure progress?
- How are districts supporting the implementation of all activities to support School Improvement? (not just the CIP)

- School Level

- What data is used to measure student achievement?
- How are administrators, teachers and instructional coaches analyzing the data and making adjustments to instruction?
- How are administrators, teachers and instructional coaches utilizing PLCs to ensure that school improvement goals are met?
- How are administrators, teachers and instructional coaches monitoring the implementation of the activities listed in the school improvement plan?





# Approvability Document

• [Approvability Document OLE March 2025](#)

• Guidance for Determining Non/Approvable Activities

• Working Document; Continuously Reviewed and Updated

• Two-fold Document



Office of Leadership Effectiveness  
Guide for Support Status (CSI, TSI, Priority) Funding

Approvable Activities	Non-Approvable Activities
<u>Tutoring/Instructional Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After school support for math and ELA</li><li>• Summer school/instructional support for math and ELA</li></ul>	<u>Tutoring/Instructional Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field trips for elementary and middle schools</li></ul>
<u>Field Trips</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only approved for high school if aligned with the scores and metrics for college and career readiness. (see Accountability Manual)</li></ul>	<u>Field Trips</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field trips as rewards and/or incentives</li></ul>
<u>College and Career Readiness (CCR)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic support for increasing ACT/SAT scores</li><li>• Costs related to dual-enrollment classes and work-based learning opportunities</li><li>• Transportation to dual-enrollment or work-based learning opportunities</li><li>• Work Keys Readiness, or district-designated option</li><li>• ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Battery Test)</li><li>• Training credentials</li></ul>	<u>College and Career Readiness (CCR)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College tours</li></ul>
<u>Personnel</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading and Math Interventionists</li></ul>	<u>Personnel</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Educational Technology Specialists (ET Specialists)</li></ul>

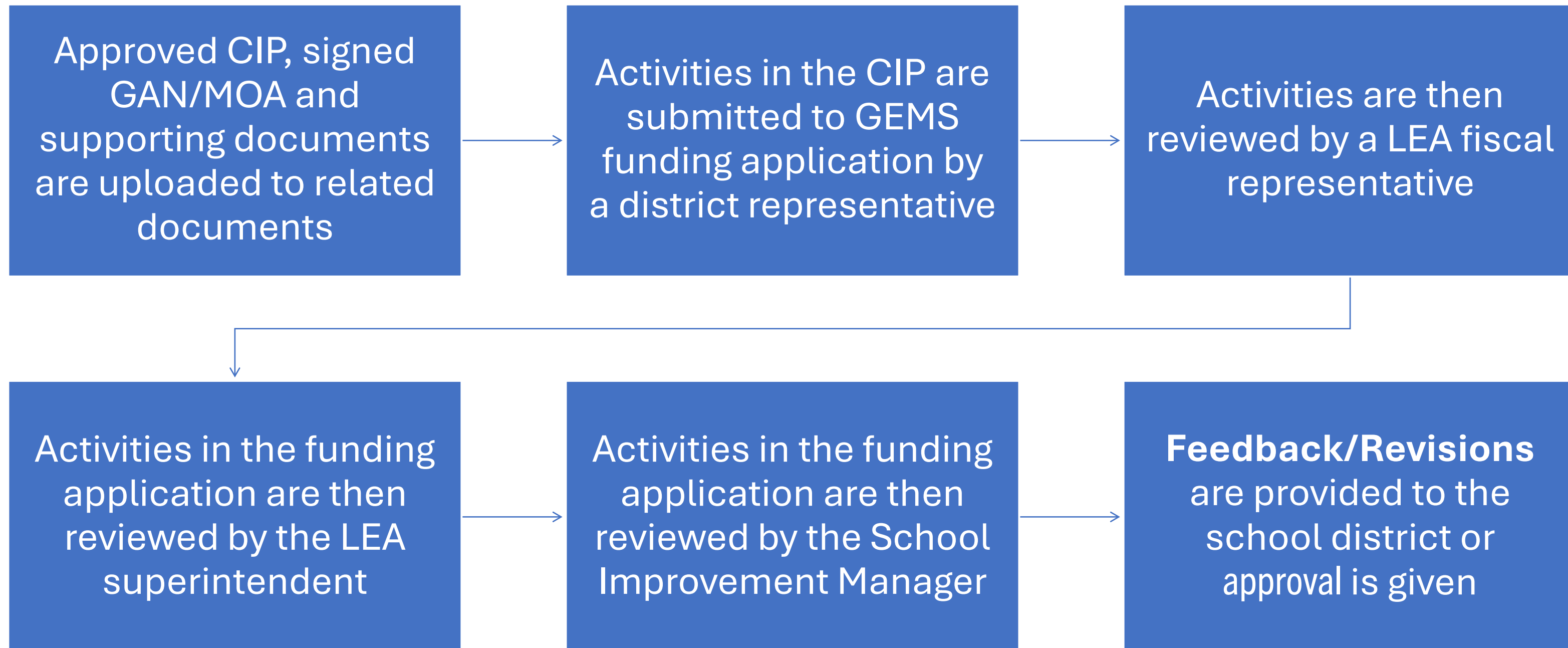


# What is the approval process for the Continuous Improvement Plan?

- School Improvement Manager emails deadline to submit MOA/GAN and Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) link provided
- Districts plan with their respective stakeholders to complete the CIP
- Districts submit CIPs by email to the School Improvement Manager for review
- School Improvement Manager emails communication to inform the district of approval or revisions needed



# What is the approval process for the funding application?



# Contact Information

School Improvement Manager	Email Address
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