

The School Improvement Best Practices strategy supports school systems and schools in adopting the essential components that drive [high-quality professional learning](#) (HQPL). HQPL is necessary to ensure Louisiana’s children experience a positive educational journey that results in them graduating on time and being prepared for college, career, or service. Subsequently, the LDOE identified five evidence-based, School Improvement Best Practices that support children receiving a high-quality education . The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support,
- teacher collaboration support,
- teaching standards support,
- principal standards support, and
- career pipeline support.

Continuing during the 2023-2024 academic year, all CIR schools are required to include the Instructional Leadership Team Support and Teacher Collaboration Support best practices in school improvement efforts. The implementation of these best practices include 3 days of onsite support and access to digital resources from a high-quality vendor. School systems may apply for funds through Super App or use other funding sources for schools without an intervention label.

School improvement best practices will “level up” existing implementation efforts. High-quality professional learning opportunities continue to occur through [School Support Institutes](#), partnerships with high-quality vendors, and LDOE support from the School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS). Attendance in School Support Institute sessions are required for CIR schools. Attendance is optional for UIR-A schools as well as non-labeled sites.

To ensure schools “level-up” use of school improvement best practices, *new this year*:

- Teacher Leader Summit sessions provide an additional layer of support to systems in the implementation, application, or evaluation of HQPL structures . All CIR schools are required to attend one full-day session.
- High-quality vendor support assists school systems and CIR schools in implementation efforts. Funding may be requested for 1 additional support day for a total of 3 support days.

Use the charts below for details on the best practice requirements and Super App funding requests. More details on Teacher Leader Summit sessions will be released this spring. Please email the [Division of School Improvement](#) with questions.

School Improvement Requirement	Description	Funding Request	<a href="#">School System Planning Item</a>
Portal Access*	Schools will receive access to EE PASS, an online content library that provides access to resources and self-study opportunities throughout the year. Schools will receive 3 days of onsite and/or virtual coaching (one in fall, winter, and spring). These days are allocated explicitly to support the application of new learning received during the Teacher Leader Summit.	\$11,000 per school	P4.5.9

\*Portal access is a required, one-time purchase for the 2023-2024 school year. This component must be included to support the required ILT and Teacher Collaboration implementation at CIR schools.

School Improvement Best Practice	Description	Funding Request	<a href="#">School System Planning Item</a>
Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Support	ILTs are an evidence-based, school improvement best practice that focuses on building capacity and making decisions. ILTs consist of leaders who serve in various capacities across the school system and within schools who collaborate to result in improved teaching and learning experiences. ILT support is provided through SSI, TL summit, and LDOE field-based support from School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS).	No funding request required	P4.5.9
Teacher Collaboration (TC) Support	TC promotes teacher development by providing teachers with weekly, job-embedded learning that is facilitated by a skilled educator that serves within the building and seeks to meet student needs by affording teachers the opportunity to collaborate with peers. ILT support is provided through SSI, TL summit, and LDOE field-based support from School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS).	No funding request required	P4.5.9

<p>Teaching Standards Support</p>	<p>TC sessions are evidence-based, school improvement best practice comprising a set of standards that inform and measure teaching skills, knowledge, and responsibilities. These standards focus on four domains: instruction, the learning environment, designing and planning instruction, and professionalism. The goal of these standards is to promote high quality instructional practices to positively impact student achievement. This support is provided through partnership with a high-quality vendor.</p>	<p>No funding request required</p>	<p>P4.5.9</p>
<p>Principal Standards Support</p>	<p>Principals Standard support an evidence-based, school improvement best practice comprising of a set of standards that define, inform, and measure excellence in school leadership through six domains of school mission, vision, and strategic goal setting; instructional leadership; capacity building; school environment/community and campus climate; ethics and integrity; and, school operations/ management. This support is provided through partnership with a high-quality vendor.</p>	<p>No funding request required</p>	<p>P4.5.9</p>
<p>Career Pipeline Support</p>	<p>Career pipeline support is an evidence-based, school improvement best practice that denotes an intentional system for identifying and utilizing site-based teacher leaders to improve teaching and learning in all classrooms. This pipeline provides an opportunity for teachers to advance professionally and support the growth of their colleagues. This support is provided through partnership with a high-quality vendor.</p>	<p>No funding request required</p>	<p>P4.5.9</p>

School Improvement Requirement	Description	Funding Request	<a href="#">School System Planning Item</a>
Teacher Leader Summit	Required participation from CIR schools will be funded by the Department. Each school should plan to send members of the Instructional Leadership Team and school system personnel, ideally the same members who attend <a href="#">School Support Institutes</a> , to attend the 2023-2024 Teacher Leader Summit. Seat allocations remain consistent with those for School Support Institutes.	Required participation from CIR schools will be funded by the Department.	P4.5.10

School Improvement Requirement	Description	Funding Request	<a href="#">School System Planning Item</a>
SSI	Required participation from CIR schools, in addition to optional participation for UIR-A schools, will be funded by the Department in accordance with the seat allocation for each Instructional Leadership Team. Each school should plan to send three members of the Instructional Leadership Team to the <a href="#">School Support Institutes</a> . These ILT members' responsibilities should include planning/facilitating ILT meetings (principal, head of school, etc.), observing and providing feedback to classroom instruction (content leaders, master teacher, instructional facilitators/coordinators), and meeting the needs of diverse learners (Special Education and/or English Learner support coordinator) plus system leaders whose responsibilities include supporting CIR schools and/or supervising principals. Each ILT will choose one pathway to attend together for the entire training sequence.	Required participation from CIR schools will be funded by the Department.	P4.5.13

## **How to request funds for School Improvement Best Practices**

### *Super App Funding Requests*

- Item P4.5.9 (School Improvement Best Practices) has a funding request box for Portal Access and each required best practice (instructional leadership team support and teacher collaboration support) in addition to optional best practices (teaching standards support, principal standards support, and career pipeline support). School systems should include a funding request of \$11,000 per site for Portal Access and Coaching Support at each CIR school which is implementing the required best practice. School systems should use the tables above to make requests for the required best practices in the provided funding request entry blanks within Super App. In addition to making a request, school systems should identify the number of CIR schools implementing each item.
- Item P4.5.10 (Teacher Leader Summit) is required for CIR schools and will be funded by the Department. School systems should enter the number of teachers and school leaders from CIR / UIR-A schools implementing School Improvement Best Practiced the school system plans on sending to Teacher Leader Summit 2023.
- Item P4.5.13 (School Support Institutes) is required for CIR schools and will be funded by the Department. School systems should identify the number of school system and school leader participants from CIR / UIR-A schools attending School Support Institutes and complete this [form](#) to provide additional attendance information.