



There have been some challenges that have impacted the Technical Assistance Grant over the last few months. Please take a moment to read about the following challenges:

- MDE's recent Financial Audit and the financial impact for Calhoun ISD
- MDE's change to the Technical Assistance Grant Supports
- Statewide Field Team changes

MDE's Financial Audit of the Technical Assistance Grant

The MDE's recent financial audit of the Title I Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) called into question the propriety of Calhoun ISD expenditures of federal funds to support the work of the *Blueprint* in 10 of the districts receiving services via a subscription. The Audit Final Report found that Calhoun ISD was noncompliant in three areas due to providing Blueprint services to districts who were not eligible to receive these services. As a result of the audit findings, the MDE is recapturing \$133,170.34 from Calhoun ISD for the 2017-2018 grant cycle which was spent on unallowable expenditures.

The information on the financial audit below **does not** impact the free services available to your district through the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) for the 2019-20 school year. We share this information as we want to be transparent with all the districts we support through the TAG.

New Grant Cycle October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020.

As you are all starting a new school year, here at the Statewide Field Team (SWFT), we are planning for the next year of our grant cycle that begins October 1, 2019. We are finalizing our scope of work for 2019-20 with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and need to make sure you are aware of changes that are on the horizon.

For the 2019-20 grant cycle the MDE notified us that the TAG Scope of Work will focus solely on providing technical assistance and professional learning around the *Blueprint*. The SWFT **will not** be providing technical assistance or professional learning around Assessing Needs or Early Literacy Schoolwide and Center-wide Practices. Assessing Needs professional learning and technical assistance will fall under the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MI CIP), services that MDE and your local ISD/ESAs will provide. The General Education Leadership Network's Early Literacy Task Force will provide professional learning around the Early Literacy Schoolwide and Center-wide Practices.

SWFT Personnel Changes and Facilitator Assignments

We have had numerous SWFT members leave our team for other opportunities since May which left some of you without an assigned SWFT Facilitator. We chose to wait until decisions were made by the MDE before we considered new assignments for the coming year. We plan



to have new SWFT Facilitator assignments completed by October 1, 2019. In the interim, the plan is for you to contact an Area Leader to communicate what support is needed.

- East Area Leaders: Heather Stanley (stanleyh@calhounisd.org) and Kwame Stephens (stephenk@calhounisd.org).
- North Area: Chasity Sutton (csutton@eupschools.org)
- West Area: Alecia Hoppa (hoppaa@calhounisd.org).

Additionally, we have had three of our Leadership Team members leave:

- Kathy Mohney and Chris Parker left our team for superintendent positions
- Grant Chandler resigned as Executive Director effective September 20, 2019.

We will be sending further communication in the next few weeks including a memo of understanding between the SWFT and your district to outline supports and working agreements. You can always reach out to me with questions as we adjust how we support *Blueprint* districts.

Respectfully,

Beth Brophy
SWFT Acting Executive Director
brophye@calhounisd.org
269-274-3864