

Federal Designations 101

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Resource: [Federal Designation Overview and Support Guidance 2025](#)

Session Description: This session provides an overview of the federal school designation system and what it means for schools and districts. Participants will explore the different federal designations (CSI, ATSI, TSI), how they are determined, and the indicators and methodology used to identify schools. The session will walk through identification and exit criteria, clarify the requirements associated with each designation, and key timelines. Designed to build shared understanding, this session supports participants in connecting how designation status aligns to planning, implementation, and continuous school improvement effort

Session Objectives:

- Explain the purpose of identifying schools as CSI, ATSI, and TSI under the federal accountability system.
- Describe how designations are determined, including the indicators and methodology used for identification.
- Review exit criteria and understand the associated requirements and timelines.
- Connect designation status to improvement planning and ongoing monitoring efforts within your school or district.

Overview/Key Takeaways

1. Accountability Context- Overview of the federal accountability system, governing laws, key definitions, and Nebraska's accountability timeline.

- **Key Takeaway:** Federal designations exist to identify where systems may not be effectively serving all students and to focus attention and resources on improving outcomes.

2. Indicators & Identification Process - Review of the indicators used in the accountability system and how the "filter" process and cut points determine CSI, ATSI, and TSI status.

- **Key Takeaway:** Federal designations are data-driven and follow a defined methodology designed to consistently identify schools needing additional support.

3. Exit Criteria & Requirements - Explanation of how schools exit CSI, ATSI, and TSI status, including timelines and high-level requirements associated with each designation.

- **Key Takeaway:** Designations are not permanent. Schools can exit by demonstrating improvement on the indicators used for identification.

4. Connection to Improvement Planning - Discussion of how designation status should connect to planning, implementation, and ongoing monitoring within schools and districts.

- **Key Takeaway:** Federal designations should serve as a starting point for strategic improvement work, not simply a compliance requirement.