

LEA Implementation of the School Quality Improvement System, Monitoring and Escalating Interventions

Participating LEAs promise to hold each other accountable for decision-making at the local level based on the three waiver principles that make up the larger School Quality Improvement System they also agree that an external representative body of related educational experts will increase the transparency and rigor of the comprehensive system.

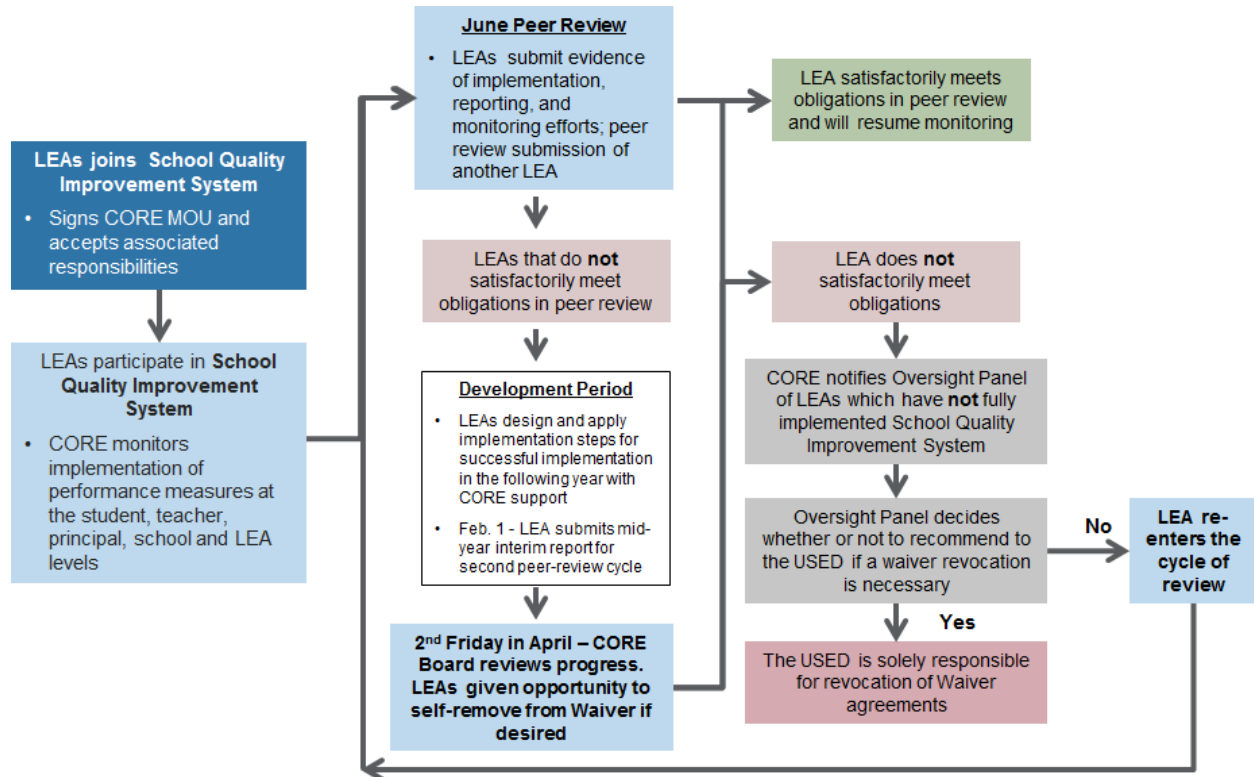
In the spirit of unbiased review, elimination of conflict of interest, as well as inclusiveness of the broader California and National education stakeholder and policy communities, the CORE Board has instituted the School Quality Improvement System Oversight Panel (See Figure X.) for compliance and status reporting. This Oversight Panel will be comprised of 14 members from the broader education field to receive and review annual implementation progress and status of the LEAs' School Improvement System implementation expectations. The Oversight Panel will include many of California's major stakeholders in education. Panel members will represent the civil rights, English learner and students with disabilities communities as well as nationally recognized organization members that share CORE's common goals of ensuring college and career readiness for all students. The Oversight Panel coordinated and facilitated by CORE staff, will annually elect a chairperson who leads meetings and will only vote in tie-breaking situations. Otherwise, the Oversight Panel will operate with a voting group of a simple majority and operate in compliance with the Brown Act Open Meeting Law. In person meetings of the Oversight Panel will occur biannually in mid-to-late January and mid-to-late June. Up to three additional meetings can be called each year to be held in either virtual or face-to-face settings.

The School Quality Improvement System Oversight Panel will meet biannually (January and June.) The panel must operate with a majority or seven of the 14 members and the first convening of the Oversight Panel will occur in January of 2014. Each year, during the June meeting, the panel will receive LEA self-evaluation reports with peer reviewer comments and recommendations regarding implementation progress and status. All LEA self-evaluation reports will be peer reviewed against the CORE Board adopted common rubric (Appendix H.) and then aggregated and presented by CORE staff for the approval or denial of the Oversight Panel. The Panel will receive decision making guidance from CORE staff regarding LEA School Quality Improvement System implementation. The Panel will only receive for review and possible action LEA implementation self-assessments during January meetings if an LEA has failed to meet its implementation, reporting and monitoring obligations in the previous year and first semester of the current year.

If an LEA fails to meet the implementation, reporting and monitoring obligations as submitted in and peer-reviewed annual (June) School Quality Improvement System Implementation self-evaluation report, CORE staff will support the LEA to design and apply implementation steps for successful implementation in the following year. CORE staff will visit and meet periodically with the LEA in support of the additional implementation steps. The LEA will then submit a mid-year interim report by mid-January of year two participation for a second peer-review cycle. If the LEA still has not been able to fully implement the School Quality Improvement System based on the common evaluation rubric, CORE will notify the Oversight Panel of the LEAs inability comply (during the January meeting). If the Oversight Panel makes a determination to recommend waiver revocation to the USED, the LEA must be informed no later than the 2nd Friday in April, The escalating interventions and monitoring for reporting support and communication regarding the aforementioned steps is reflected in Figure 9. Monitoring Escalating Interventions for School Quality Improvement System below. The Oversight panel will make a decision whether or not to recommend to the USED if a waiver revocation is necessary due the LEA's inability to comply with

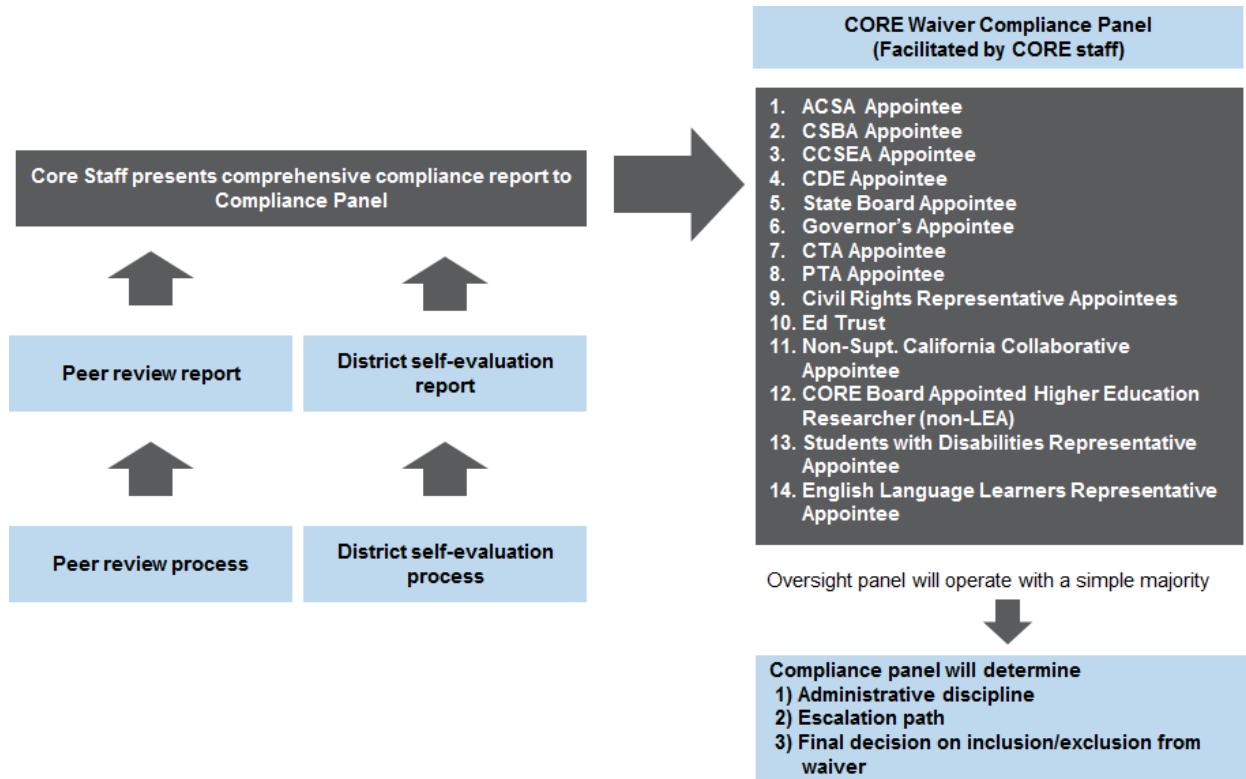
full implementation. The first time the Oversight Panel will consider whether any LEAs should lose their waiver due to lack of implementation as described in Figure 9. will be in the spring of 2015. The USED is solely responsible for revocation of Waiver agreements.

Figure 9. Monitoring Escalating Interventions for School Quality Improvement System



Ultimately, it is the role of the School Quality Improvement System Oversight Panel (Figure 10.) to render recommendations to the USED regarding compliance for LEA inclusion/exclusion in the waiver based on peer and self-evaluation inputs related to implementation and mutually agreed upon compliance. And, the CORE Board via CORE staff will communicate all actions, decisions and recommendations rendered from the School Quality Improvement System Oversight Panel directly to participating LEAs. Any and all actions, decisions or recommendations requiring LEA response shall be carried out by the individual or group of LEAs for which the action, decision or recommendation applies. The Oversight Panel will operate under the guidelines of the Brown Act and follow all provisions pursuant to meetings, minutes and documents that are reviewed during meetings in both open and closed sessions, as permissible. This could include but is not limited to LEA School Quality Improvement System LEA self and peer reviews.

Figure 10. School Quality Improvement System Oversight Panel



In conclusion, the School Quality Improvement System will allow participating LEAs to establish a demonstrated system of accountability within and across LEAs that will meet and exceed state and federal forms of accountability, but does not rely on accountability as a leading driver of change. The mutual commitment to focus on the right drivers, and build collective capacity and intrinsic motivation for change, will result in documented improvements in student learning and achievement.

CORE believes that students have one chance to receive a strong education, and the future economic health of California's communities, and the state as a whole, is incumbent upon the participating LEAs getting this right. With approval of this waiver application, the participating LEAs ultimately will create systemic changes in school culture that will lead to more students being college- and career-ready than ever before.