March 1, 2016. Tennessee "freezes" its current priority and focus schools. These schools keep their improvement status and continue their interventions through the 2016-17 school year, but may exit earlier if they show dramatic improvement.


Ongoing. The Tennessee Department of Education partners with the Governor, the state legislature, school districts, teachers and school staff, and other stakeholders to develop a state plan under Title I. The plan is approved by a federally appointed peer review team within 120 days.

School Years 2015-16 and 2016-17. States and school districts continue publishing annual report cards, as required under No Child Left Behind. States and districts no longer have to report whether students met achievement goals, however, or include information on teacher quality.

August 1, 2016. Tennessee's waiver expires. The state must continue supporting interventions in its priority and focus schools until the new Title I state plan is put in place no later than school year 2017-18.

Fall 2016. The Tennessee Department of Education releases a draft state plan for stakeholder review.

School Year 2016-17. Most federal funding is allocated to school districts using the original No Child Left Behind formulas for the last time.

February/March 2017. The Tennessee Department of Education approves the new state plan.

School Year 2017-18.

- Federal funding is distributed to school districts using the new Every Student Succeeds Act funding formulas.
- Tennessee begins using its new or revised accountability and intervention systems.
- Tennessee identifies schools for comprehensive support and improvement. As with priority and focus schools, this list is released every three years.