

Requirements of Districts in Improvement Status

NOTIFICATIONS

All notices must be provided in an understandable and uniform format (including alternative formats upon request) regardless of the method or media used. To the extent practicable, written communication must be in a language parents can understand. If this is not possible, the United States Education Department (USED) guidance indicates that information must be provided in oral translation for parents with limited English proficiency.

District in Improvement/Corrective Action Status Notification

The State must identify an LEA for District Improvement status if, at the LEA level, the District fails to meet AYP for two consecutive years. Please note, this identification is a separate identification than School Improvement identification (although both identifications are stated in the Fusion website).

The LEA is required to send notice to the parents of each student enrolled in all schools served by that LEA stating all reasons the LEA was identified and an explanation as to how parents can become involved. Please note that this concerns all schools, not just Title I schools. In addition, the LEA must publicize and disseminate this information to teachers, other school staff, parents, students, and the community the results of the review. If the LEA is identified for Corrective Action by the SEA (occurring after four years of missing AYP), the letter must include the Corrective Action the SEA has chosen to implement in the LEA.

Website Information to Post

The district must post on their website:

- A copy of the notifications sent to parents regarding the District identification of improvement

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS

If the district is identified for improvement, it must develop a new two-year District Improvement Plan or revise an existing one that addresses the academic issues that caused it to be identified for improvement. The District Improvement Plan must be completed no later than three months after it has been identified and submit this plan to the WDE for approval within 45 days of completion. The plan must include all Title I required components.

OBLIGATIONS (TOTAL DISTRICT TITLE I-A ALLOCATION)

Once the LEA is identified for improvement, it is required the District commit to spending at least 10 percent of its Title I, Part A funds to address the professional development needs of the staff. This commitment applies each year the District is identified. When calculating this obligation, the district may include any amount of funds reserved for PD in schools that have been identified for school improvement, however, the total must amount to 10 percent of the total LEA Title I, Part A allocation. The amount committed at the District level may be used to provide PD to the instructional staff across the District (even those schools not participating in the Title I program), however, the specific amount that is committed at the school level must be spent at the respective school. This

obligation becomes optional once the District is identified for District level Corrective Action, which occurs after not meeting AYP for four years.

Additionally, if the LEA is identified for improvement, fund transfers into Title I-A (i.e. transferring funds from Title II-A into Title I-A) are limited to 30 percent.

SEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE DISTRICT

The SEA is required to provide technical assistance or any other assistance to the LEA, if the LEA requests it. The assistance the SEA can provide varies, but would include areas such as:

- Assistance in helping the LEA better develop and implement its improvement plan;
- Assistance in addressing problems with parental involvement; and
- Assistance in addressing professional development activities.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AT THE LEA LEVEL

The SEA is required to take corrective action in any LEA that fails to make AYP for four years. One of the following actions must be chosen by the SEA:

- Reduce the amount of administrative funds at the LEA level;
- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum based on academic content and achievement standards. This must include providing professional development for all staff and the curriculum must have substantial promise of improving student achievement;
- Replace LEA personnel who are relevant to the failure of making AYP;
- Remove particular schools from the LEA and provide for alternative arrangements;
- The SEA can appoint a trustee to the LEA to in place of the school board or superintendent;
- Abolish or restructure the LEA

Once the LEA fails to make AYP for four years at the District level and enters into Corrective Action status, fund transfers into Title I-A (i.e. transferring funds from Title II-A into Title I-A) are no longer allowable.

EXITING DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT

A district identified for improvement must make AYP for two consecutive school years in order to exit district improvement status after it has been identified. This is the same rule that applies to Title I-A districts at any stage of the district improvement process.

If the district makes AYP for one year (or the district does not make AYP due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances) then the district would be considered to be in "Holding Status" for that year.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT MONITORING

All identified districts will be required to complete the WDE's LEA improvement monitoring on an annual basis. This documentation will be made available to all districts.