

4 AAC 06.850 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(c) For each district for which the department has conducted an instructional audit under 4 AAC 06.840(j), the department will, after consultation with the district, draft a district improvement plan unless the department finds that the district has adequate instructional policies, practices, and methodologies. The district improvement plan may include

(1) adoption of the program described in 4 AAC 06.872(c);

(2) technical assistance to the district regarding the implementation of a program for improvement under the improvement plan; or

(3) one or more corrective actions described in 4 AAC 06.840, 4 AAC 06.865, or 4 AAC 06.870 for the district as a whole or at a school in the district.

(d) The technical assistance required under (c)(2) of this section may be provided by department personnel or by a contractor, and may include a site visit. The department may redirect the district's funding under AS 14.17 to provide money to pay for services by a contractor that the commissioner determines are necessary under this section. If a district fails to take an action required under the district improvement plan, the commissioner may, after notice to the district and an opportunity for the district to respond, cause the district's funding under AS 14.17 to be redirected to pay for the action or to a holding account for the district until the action is completed. The department will not redirect a district's funding under this subsection, and will not impose corrective action that involves personnel under (c)(3) of this section, if in each of the three previous years the district demonstrated increases of at least two percentage points in the standards-based assessment in mathematics, reading, and writing under 4 AAC 06.737.

(e) A district may petition the department at any time to cease or continue an intervention taken by the department under this section. In considering whether to grant a petition under this subsection, the department will consider the

(1) factors described in 4 AAC 06.840(j)(2); and

(2) public interest.

(f) The department will not take action under (c) – (d) of this section unless it has reached a conclusion, after consideration of the evidence, that its action will likely improve student achievement.

(g) Compliance with (c) – (f) of this section does not necessarily constitute compliance with a district’s other responsibilities for school or district improvement under 4 AAC 06.800 – 4 AAC 06.899. (Eff. 11/23/2003, Register 168; am ___/___/2008, Register ___)

Authority: AS 14.03.123 AS 14.50.080
AS 14.07.020 AS.14.07.060

4 AAC 06 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4 AAC 06.872. School-level desk audits. (a) Each year, at the same time the department is conducting district desk audits under 4 AAC 06.840(j), the department will conduct a school-level desk audit of all schools in the state. The department will identify a school as needing additional analysis if the school

(1) did not make adequate yearly progress under 4 AAC 06.805;

(2) has fewer than 50 percent of its full-academic-year students score as proficient or higher on the mathematics, reading, or writing standards-based assessment under 4 AAC 06.737; and

(3) has a school index point value under 4 AAC 33.540 of 85 or lower.

(b) The department will determine whether the schools identified in (a) of this section would benefit from being placed on a program for improvement of instructional practices as described in (c) of this section. In making this determination, the department will consult with the superintendent of the district in which the school is located and will consider

(1) the reasons the school has been identified, including whether the school serves a special population;

(2) whether the state has imposed a district improvement plan under 4 AAC 06.850(c) as a result of an instructional audit under 4 AAC 06.840(j);

(3) whether the district has implemented a comparable program in the school;

(4) whether the school has shown substantial growth in student achievement; and

(5) for a school with fewer than 20 tested students, multiple years of data.

(c) After the department has determined under (b) of this section that a school would benefit from a program for improvement of instructional practices, the department will send notice of this determination to the district in which the school is located. In the notice, the department will inform the district of the deficiencies that need to be remedied and a timetable for implementation of the program and for amendment of the school

improvement plan developed under 4 AAC 06.845 for the school. Within 30 days after receiving the notice, the district shall take action under the timetable as required by the department, and shall verify in writing to the department that it has taken that action. A program for improvement of instructional practices must include

(1) weekly collaborative meetings of teaching staff to discuss individual student progress; logs of the meeting shall be recorded and sent to the superintendent;

(2) regular use of assessments that provide feedback for adjustment of ongoing teaching and learning in order to improve achievement of intended instructional outcomes; and

(3) school-level instructional management that provides professional development and technical assistance to staff and addresses grade-level expectations in the instruction.

(d) The department will provide technical assistance to the district regarding the implementation of the program in (c) of this section, unless the commissioner determines that technical assistance is not required. Technical assistance may be provided by department personnel or by a contractor, and may include a site visit. The department may redirect money from the district's funding under AS 14.17 to pay for services by a contractor that the commissioner determines are necessary under this section.

(e) The commissioner may require the district to implement or amend at a school under a program for improvement of instructional practices

(1) corrective action described in 4 AAC 06.840 or 4 AAC 06.865; or

(2) a remediation plan under 4 AAC 06.759 for students at the school who have not passed the state high school graduation qualifying examination (HSGQE).

(f) If a district fails to take the action required under this section, the commissioner may, after notice to the district and an opportunity for the district to respond, cause the district's funding under AS 14.17 to be redirected to pay for the action or to a holding account for the district until the action is completed. Before requiring action under this subsection, the commissioner will consider the

- (1) comments from the superintendent of the district;
- (2) action taken by the district to improve the school;
- (3) number of years the school has been identified under this section; and
- (4) factors listed in (b) of this section.

(g) The department will not redirect a district's funding under (d) or (f) of this section, and will not impose corrective action that involves personnel under (e) of this section, if in each of the three previous years the district demonstrated increases of not less than two percentage points in the standards-based assessment in mathematics, reading, and writing under 4 AAC 06.737.

(h) A district may petition the department at any time to cease or continue an intervention taken by the department under this section. In considering whether to grant a petition under this subsection, the department will consider the

- (1) factors described in (b) and (f) of this section; and
- (2) public interest.

(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department will not take action under this section unless it has reached a conclusion, after consideration of the evidence, that its action will likely improve student achievement.

(j) Compliance with this section does not necessarily constitute compliance with a district's other responsibilities for school or district improvement under 4 AAC 06.800 – 4 AAC 06.899. (Eff. __/__/2008, Register __)

Authority: AS 14.03.123 AS 14.50.080
AS 14.07.020 AS.14.07.060