

Philosophy—Goals—Objectives and Comprehensive Plans

Intervention for Underperforming Schools

Whenever any district school performs below the statewide average on indicators of student achievement, the Governing Board shall provide additional support and assistance to the school in order to improve student learning. The school shall develop, for Board approval, plans for immediate action based on an evaluation of achievement data for various groups of students, a comprehensive review of the school environment and the learning experiences provided to students, and the identification of specific barriers to student learning.

The Board recognizes that any school participating in the state's Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (II/USP) will be subject to state sanctions if student performance fails to improve in a timely manner, and shall therefore closely monitor the school's progress. The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with regular reports on the status and results of improvement efforts.

Selection of External Evaluator or Entity

By November 15 of the year that the school is selected to participate in the intervention program, the Board shall either: (Education Code [52054](#))

1. Contract with an external evaluator from the list of qualified external evaluators approved by the State Board of Education

If the school's student population is at least 40 percent limited English proficient and the Board contracts with an external evaluator, the Board shall select an evaluator with demonstrated experience in working with English language learners.

2. Contract with an entity, including but not limited to an institution of higher education, county office of education or school district personnel, that has proven, successful expertise specific to the challenges inherent in low-performing schools

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that any external evaluator or entity selected by the

district meets other applicable requirements for district contractors.

The external evaluator or entity shall guide the development of an action plan for school improvement and may have a coaching role in the implementation of the plan. In addition to the duties prescribed by law, the duties of the external evaluator or entity shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.

External Evaluator: Conflict of Interest Statement

The Board requires that any external evaluator not engage in any activity that conflicts, or has the appearance of conflicting, with the evaluator's responsibilities to the district. To achieve this end, the Board shall ensure that:

1. A person serving as an external evaluator shall not be an employee of the district.
2. The external evaluator shall work with utmost integrity and impartiality in carrying out his/her evaluation responsibilities.
3. The external evaluator shall encourage and assist schools in the consideration of a variety of alternatives with respect to programs, materials or services and shall not advocate for specific programs, materials or services.
4. The external evaluator shall work actively to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest.
5. The external evaluator shall resign if any real or apparent conflict of interest develops during the period of evaluation.

In order to help prevent conflicts of interest, the Board shall carefully analyze any school action plans that are prepared by external evaluators who have a coaching role in the implementation of the plan.

The Superintendent or designee shall take all actions necessary to ensure the prevention, investigation and resolution of real or apparent conflicts of interest. He/she shall disseminate the district's II/USP conflict of interest policy and procedure to potential district external evaluators, and shall ensure that the external evaluator sign the district's conflict of interest statement.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

33126 School accountability report card

33400-33407 CDE evaluation of district programs

45125.1 Criminal background checks for contractors

51041 Evaluation of the educational program

52050-52058 Public Schools Accountability Act,

especially:

52053-52055.5 Immediate Intervention for Underperforming Schools Program

52055.600-52055.656 High Priority Schools Grant Program for Low-Performing Schools

60640-60647 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3932 School site and community team; augmentation of school site council

PUBLIC LAW 107-110

1601-1608 Comprehensive School Reform program

Management Resources:

CSBA POLICY ADVISORIES

0811.99 Public School Accountability Act:

Considerations for Volunteering

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

0915.99 External Evaluator Conflict of Interest:

Immediate Intervention/ Underperforming Schools Program

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program: Guidance for Developing Action Plans and Securing Implementation Funding, March 2002

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>