

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Commissioner Eric Smith

DATE: May 3, 2010

SUBJECT: FLORIDA'S RACE TO THE TOP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PHASE 2

Please find attached Florida's Race to the Top Phase 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). There are two compelling reasons why I am confident that our application for Phase 2 funding in the federal Race to the Top competition will be successful. First is Florida's demonstrated reform history and nationally acclaimed progress which helped drive our high score and positive reception of our Phase 1 Race to the Top application (fourth out of 41 applicants). Second is the dedication of those who came together as the Governor's Working Group on April 28 with a charge to develop consensus around Florida's MOU. This group was well-rounded with representation from our superintendents, board members, and unions representing teachers, as well as teachers, parents, and the business community. The positive discussions reinforced the shared belief that collaboration is critical for district ownership and implementation. Therefore, we approach Phase 2 with a stronger MOU and the united spirit necessary to earn the highest amount of funding available for our students.

The signed MOU is due back to the Department of Education May 25, 2010. Please e-mail a signed copy to Holly.Edenfield@fldoe.org by May 25, and mail the original in hard copy to:

Holly Edenfield
325 West Gaines Street
Suite 1502
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

The Phase 2 MOU process gives me high expectations that we can work together to develop strong district plans if Florida receives a Phase 2 award. Thank you in advance for the work required on your part to take this important next step.

EJS/hre

cc: Governor Crist
State Board of Education Members

PARTICIPATING LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

- I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF WORK:** An award of Race to the Top grant funds would position Florida to weave a common core of rigorous standards and assessments into a pioneering data system that will serve as a foundation to attract, retain, and support top notch teachers and school leaders who will, in turn, improve student achievement in Florida's schools. By entering into this "Memorandum of Understanding" ("MOU"), Local Education Agencies ("LEAs") will indicate their commitment to these principles and their ability to ensure that these principles are implemented through their LEA plan.

This MOU is entered into by and between the Florida Department of Education ("Department") and _____ ("Participating LEA"). The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of collaboration, as well as articulate specific roles and responsibilities in support of the Department in its implementation of an approved Race to the Top grant application. Exhibit I, the Preliminary Scope of Work, indicates which portions of the State's proposed reform plans ("State Plan") the Participating LEA is agreeing to implement should the State's application be approved by the United States Department of Education ("ED").

In order to participate, the LEA must agree to implement all applicable portions of the State Plan and return the executed MOU on or before May 25, 2010, to Holly.Edenfield@fldoe.org.

Nothing herein should be construed to obviate the responsibility of an LEA to comply with class size requirements.

II. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION:

A. PARTICIPATING LEA RESPONSIBILITIES: The Participating LEA will assist the Department in implementing the tasks and activities described in the State's Race to the Top application, should the State's application be approved by the U.S. Department of Education and if the LEA is approved for a subgrant by the Department. Approval of the subgrant will be based upon the scope and quality of the LEA's proposed work plans and its capacity to implement the plans. To this end, the Participating LEA sub grantee will:

- 1) Implement the LEA plan as identified in Exhibit I of this agreement.
- 2) Actively participate in all relevant convenings, communities of practice, or other practice-sharing events that are organized or sponsored by the Department or by ED.
- 3) Post to any website specified by the Department or ED, in a timely manner, all non-proprietary products and lessons developed using funds associated with the Race to the Top grant.

- 4) Participate, as requested, in evaluations of this grant conducted by the Department or ED.
- 5) Be responsive to Department or ED requests for information including the status of the project, project implementation, outcomes, and any problems anticipated or encountered.
- 6) Participate in meetings and telephone conferences with the Department to discuss (a) progress of the project, (b) potential dissemination of resulting non-proprietary products and lessons learned, (c) plans for subsequent years of the Race to the Top grant period, and (d) other matters related to the Race to the Top grant and associated plans.

B. DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES: In assisting the Participating LEA in implementing its tasks and activities described in the State's Race to the Top application, the Department grantee will:

- 1) Work collaboratively with and support the Participating LEA in carrying out the LEA Plan as identified in Exhibit I of this agreement.
- 2) Timely distribute the Participating LEA's portion of Race to the Top grant funds during the course of the project period and in accordance with the LEA Plan.
- 3) Provide feedback on the Participating LEA's status updates, annual reports, any interim reports, and project plans and products.
- 4) Identify sources of technical assistance for the project.

C. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) The Department and the Participating LEA will each appoint a key contact person for the Race to the Top grant.
- 2) These key contacts from the Department and the Participating LEA will maintain frequent communication to facilitate cooperation under this MOU.
- 3) Department and Participating LEA grant personnel will work together to determine appropriate timelines for project updates and status reports throughout the whole grant period.
- 4) Department and Participating LEA grant personnel will negotiate in good faith to continue to achieve the overall goals of the State's Race to the Top grant, even when the State Plan requires modifications that affect the Participating LEA, or when the LEA Plan requires modifications.

D. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RESPONSIBILITIES: The parties to any applicable collective bargaining agreement will use their best efforts to negotiate any terms and conditions

in the agreement necessary for the full implementation of the State Plan. The parties understand that the failure to negotiate any term or condition in a collective bargaining agreement necessary for full implementation of the State Plan will result in termination of the grant.

Only the elements of this MOU which are contained in existing law are subject to the provisions of section 447.403, Florida Statutes.

E. DEPARTMENT RECOURSE FOR LEA NON-PERFORMANCE: If the Department determines that the LEA is not meeting its goals, timelines, budget, or annual targets or is not fulfilling other applicable requirements, the Department grantee will take appropriate enforcement action, which could include a collaborative process between the Department and the LEA, or any of the enforcement measures that are detailed in 34 CFR section 80.43 including putting the LEA on reimbursement payment status, temporarily withholding funds, or disallowing costs.

III. ASSURANCES: The Participating LEA hereby certifies and represents that it:

- 1) Has all requisite power and authority to execute this MOU.
- 2) Is familiar with the State's Race to the Top grant application and is supportive of the goals and plans for implementation and is committed to working on all applicable portions of the State Plan.
- 3) Agrees to be a Participating LEA and will implement those portions of the State Plan indicated in Exhibit I, if the State application is funded.
- 4) Will provide a Final Scope of Work in a format provided by the Department. The Final Scope of Work will describe the LEA's specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures ("LEA Plan ") in a manner that is consistent with the Preliminary Scope of Work (Exhibit I) and with the State Plan. The Final Scope of Work is due and must be submitted no later than 90 days after the grant is awarded to the State of Florida, should the State be awarded the grant.
- 5) Will propose a comprehensive, interconnected plan that will drive continuous improvement of students, teachers, and principals based upon specific goals and benchmarks. This comprehensive LEA plan will align all federal, state, and local resources and support systems, as appropriate, to maximize the LEA's capacity to implement the plan.
- 6) Will comply with all of the terms of the Grant, the Department's sub grant, and all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including laws and regulations applicable to the Program, and the applicable provisions of EDGAR (34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99).

IV. DEFINITIONS: The definitions found in the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding apply to this MOU. In addition:

- 1) “High-minority school” means a school with a minority population that is within the top quartile of minority student membership in the state.
- 2) “High-poverty school” means a school in the top quartile as measured by the percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch.

V. MODIFICATIONS: This MOU may be amended only by written agreement signed by each of the parties to the MOU, and in consultation with ED.

VI. DURATION/TERMINATION: This Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective beginning with the date of the last signature hereon and, if a grant is received, ending upon the expiration of the grant project period, or upon mutual agreement of the parties, whichever occurs first.

VII. INABILITY TO IMPLEMENT: The parties acknowledge that certain LEA undertakings in the MOU are subject to school board consideration and action at a duly noticed public meeting in accordance with Section 120.525, Florida Statutes. The parties further agree that if the LEA is unable to implement any of the mandatory terms of the MOU despite its good faith efforts to do so, resulting in termination of this MOU, such termination shall be without prejudice to the LEA. The LEA has not received the full State Plan, which is not yet complete. In executing this MOU and making the representations and warranties herein contained, the LEA is relying on the materials and representations provided to date by the Department with the understanding that the State Plan, once complete, will not be materially inconsistent with such materials and representations.

VIII. GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE: The parties hereby recommend to the Governor, the creation of a task force to monitor the implementation of the grant and the Memorandum of Understanding. Such a task force should be made up of similar stakeholders represented in Florida’s Race to the Top Working Group, established by Executive Order 10-94, and should hold its initial meeting thirty days after Florida receives notification that it has been awarded its grant. The parties recommend such task force operate as an advisory body regarding assessments and make advisory recommendations to the Governor, the local education agencies, and the State Board of Education relating to implementing the Race to the Top Grant. Additionally, the task force could make recommendations for legislation. The parties further recommend the task force be required to issue its first report by January 1, 2011, and submit quarterly reports thereafter to the Governor, the State Board of Education, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

IX. SIGNATURES

Superintendent for the LEA:

Signature/Date

Print Name/Title

Chair of School Board for the LEA:

Signature/Date

Print Name/Title

Authorized Representative of Local Teachers' Union:

Signature/Date

Print Name/Title

Commissioner of Education:

Signature/Date

Print Name/Title

EXHIBIT II – FINAL SCOPE OF WORK

The LEA hereby agrees to participate in implementing the State Plan in each of the areas identified below.

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>Through Race to the Top, the Department is poised to weave a common core of rigorous standards and assessments into a pioneering data system that will serve as a foundation to attract, retain, and support top notch teachers and school leaders who will, in turn, improve student achievement in our schools.</p>	
<p>B. Standards and Assessments</p>	
<p>(B)(3) <u>Supporting the transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistently lowest-achieving schools (schools in the lowest 5%) must modify the school schedules to accommodate lesson study. The LEA may modify school schedules for other schools to allow for common planning time by grade level (elementary) or subject area (secondary). Such planning time may be dedicated to lesson study focused on instructional quality, student work, and outcomes, without reducing time devoted to student instruction. Where lesson study is implemented, the LEA will devote a minimum of one lesson study per month for each grade level or subject area. • The LEA will ensure that professional development programs in all schools focus on the new common core standards, including assisting students with learning challenges to meet those standards (such as through accommodations and assistive technology). Such professional development will employ formative assessment and the principles of lesson study. • The LEA will implement a system to evaluate the 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>fidelity of lesson study and formative assessment implementation that is tied to interim and summative student assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will implement at least one additional high school career and technical program that provides training for occupations requiring science, technology, engineering, and/or math (STEM). The LEA will pay, or secure payment for the industry certification examination for graduates of such programs. These programs must lead to a high-wage, high-skill career for a majority of graduates that supports one of the eight targeted sectors identified by Enterprise Florida and result in an industry certification. The LEA will ensure that these programs will include at least one Career and Technical Education course that has significant integration of math or science that will satisfy core credit requirements with the passing of the course and related end-of-course exam. • The LEA will increase the number of STEM-related accelerated courses, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, AICE, dual enrollment, and industry certification. • The LEA will ensure that each school possesses the technology, including hardware, connectivity, and other necessary infrastructure, to provide teachers and students sufficient access to strategic tools for improved classroom instruction and computer-based assessment. 	
<p>C. Data Systems to Support Instruction</p>	
<p>(C)(2) <u>Accessing and using State data</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will assist in the design, testing, and 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>implementation of initiatives to improve customer-friendly access and information to district leaders, teachers, principals, parents, students, community members, unions, researchers, and policymakers to effectively use state data systems. Examples of areas where the LEA will be required to assist the Department include providing assistance on defining state-level educational data that can be used to augment local data systems, implementing a single sign-on to access state resources, providing data to the Department, and testing other mechanisms that will enhance the usability of existing state-level applications to improve instruction and student learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will use state-level data that is published for use, along with local instructional improvement systems, to improve instruction. 	
<p><u>(C)(3) Using data to improve instruction:</u> <u>(i) Use of local instructional improvement systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will use customer-friendly front end systems that are easy for students, teachers, parents, and principals to use and that show growth of students, teachers, schools, and districts disaggregated by subject and demographics. • An LEA that has an instructional improvement system will ensure that the system is being fully utilized; an LEA that does not have an instructional improvement system will acquire one. 	
<p><u>(ii) Professional development on use of data</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will provide effective professional development to teachers and administrators on 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>the use of its instructional improvement system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will provide effective professional development to teachers and administrators on the use of state level data systems developed during the term of the grant. 	
<p><u>(iii) Availability and accessibility of data to researchers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will provide requested data from local instructional improvement and longitudinal data systems to the Department to support the Department’s efforts to make data available to researchers for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of instructional materials, strategies, and approaches for educating different types of students and to help drive educational decisions and policies. 	
<p><u>D. Great Teachers and Leaders</u></p>	
<p><u>(D)(1) Providing high-quality pathways for aspiring teachers and principals</u></p>	
<p><u>(ii) Alternative routes to certification that are in use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will coordinate with institution preparation programs to provide effective district personnel to supervise pre-service teacher and educational leadership candidates. Such district supervising personnel will be highly effective teachers. The LEA will use data from student performance and other continued approval standards in Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C., to annually review and improve its alternative certification program and will deliver any professional development associated with the program in accordance with the state’s 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
protocol standards for professional development.	
<u>(D)(2) Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance</u>	
<p><u>(i) Measure student growth</u></p> <p>The LEA will measure student growth based upon the performance of students on state-required assessments and, for content areas and grade levels not assessed on state-required assessments, the LEA will use state assessments or district-selected assessments that are aligned to state standards and developed or selected in collaboration with LEA stakeholders, or will use valid, rigorous national assessments.</p> <p>The Department will collaborate with an advisory body representing all stakeholders to develop a fair and transparent student growth model that takes into consideration unique student characteristics, challenges, and other factors that affect student performance.</p>	
<p><u>(ii) Design and implement evaluation systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will design and implement a teacher evaluation system with teacher and principal involvement that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilizes the state-adopted teacher-level student growth measure cited in (D)(2)(i) as the primary factor of the teacher and principal evaluation systems. <p>Student achievement or growth data as defined in the grant must account for at least 50% of the teacher’s evaluation as follows:</p> 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>By the end of the grant, the LEA shall include student growth as defined in (D)(2)(i), for at least 40% of the evaluation, and student growth or achievement as determined by the LEA for 10% of the evaluation. The LEA may phase-in the evaluation system but will use, at a minimum, student growth as defined in (D)(2)(i) for at least 35% of the evaluation and student growth or achievement as determined by the LEA for 15% of the evaluation. Implementation of the requirements for the LEA evaluation systems beginning in the 2011-12 school years applies, at a minimum, to teachers in grades and subjects for which student growth measures have been developed by the Department in collaboration with the advisory body as described in (D)(2)(i).</p> <p>The 2010-11 school year will be considered a development year for the evaluation systems.</p> <p>However, an LEA that completed renegotiation of its collective bargaining agreement between July 1, 2009, and December 1, 2009, for the purpose of determining a weight for student growth as the primary component of its teacher and principal evaluations, is eligible for this grant as long as the student growth component is at least 40% and is greater than any other single component of the evaluation.</p> <p>2. Includes the core of effective practices, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, that have been strongly linked to increased student achievement for the observation</p>	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>portion of the teacher evaluation. The principal, direct supervisor, and any other individual performing observation will use, at a minimum, this same core of effective practices.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Includes at least one additional metric to combine with the student performance and principal observation components to develop a “multi-metric” evaluation system for, at a minimum, the teachers who are in the year prior to a milestone career event, such as being awarded a multi-year contract, a promotion, or a significant increase in salary. Examples of additional metrics include, but are not limited to, observations by master teachers or instructional coaches, student input, peer input, and parental input. 4. Includes a comprehensive range of ratings beyond a simple satisfactory or unsatisfactory, that must include “effective” and “highly effective.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will design and implement a principal evaluation system with teacher and principal involvement that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilizes the state-adopted teacher-level student growth measure cited in (D)(2)(i) as the primary factor of the teacher and principal evaluation systems. <p>Student achievement or growth data as defined in the grant must account for at least 50% of the principal’s evaluation as follows:</p> <p>By the end of the grant, the LEA shall include</p> 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>student growth as defined in (D)(2)(i), for at least 40% of the evaluation, and student growth or achievement as determined by the LEA for 10% of the evaluation. The LEA may phase-in the evaluation system but will use, at a minimum, student growth as defined in (D)(2)(i) for at least 35% of the evaluation and student growth or achievement as determined by the LEA for 15% of the evaluation. Implementation of the requirements for the LEA evaluation systems applies, at a minimum, to grades and subjects for which student growth measures have been developed by the Department in collaboration with the advisory body as described in (D)(2)(i).</p> <p>The 2010-11 school year will be considered a development year for the evaluation systems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Utilizes for the remaining portion of the evaluation the Florida Principal Leadership Standards with an emphasis on recruiting and retaining effective teachers, improving effectiveness of teachers, and removing ineffective teachers. 3. Includes a comprehensive range of ratings beyond a simple satisfactory or unsatisfactory, that must include “effective” and “highly effective.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will submit teacher and principal evaluation systems to the Department for review and approval. • The LEA will utilize student performance data on statewide assessments as a significant factor in the 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>annual evaluations of district-level staff with supervisory responsibilities over principals, curriculum, instruction, or any other position directly related to student learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will report the results of evaluations of each teacher, principal, and district-level supervisor [as described in (D)(2)(ii)] to the Department during Survey 5. 	
<p><u>(iii) Conduct annual evaluations</u></p> <p>For Teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will conduct multiple evaluations for each first-year teacher that are integrated with the district’s beginning teacher support program and include observations on the core effective practices described in (D)(2)(ii)2. and reviews of student performance data. The LEA will conduct “multi-metric” evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii) for teachers who are in the year prior to a milestone career event, such as being awarded a multi-year contract, a promotion, or a significant increase in salary. The LEA plan will include a definition of milestone career event. The LEA will conduct evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii)1, 2, and 4. for all other teachers at least once per year. <p>For Principals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will conduct evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii) for principals at least once per year. 	
<p><u>(iv)(a) Use evaluations to inform professional</u></p>	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p><u>development.</u></p> <p>The LEA will use results from teacher and principal evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii) in its professional development system as follows:</p> <p>For Teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) for each teacher that is, in part, based on an analysis of student performance data and results of prior evaluations. • Individualize the support and training provided to first-and second-year teachers and determine the effective teachers who will provide coaching/mentoring in the district’s beginning teacher support program. <p>For Principals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Individual Leadership Development Plan (ILDLP) for each principal that is based, in part, on an analysis of student performance data and results of prior evaluations. 	
<p><u>(iv)(b) Use evaluations to inform compensation, promotion, and retention</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will implement a compensation system for teachers that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ties the most significant gains in salary to effectiveness demonstrated by annual evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii). 2. Implements statutory requirements of 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>differentiated pay in s. 1012.22(1)(c)4., F.S., through bonuses or salary supplements. Categories for differentiated pay are additional academic responsibilities, school demographics, critical shortage areas (including STEM areas and Exceptional Student Education), and level of job performance difficulties (including working in high-poverty, high-minority, or persistently lowest-achieving schools).</p> <p>3. Provides promotional opportunities for effective teachers to remain teaching in addition to moving into school leadership positions and bases promotions on effectiveness as demonstrated on annual evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii), including a multi-metric evaluation in the year prior to promotion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will implement a compensation system for principals that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ties the most significant gains in salary to effectiveness demonstrated by annual evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii). 2. Implements statutory requirements of differentiated pay in s. 1012.22(1)(c)4., F.S., through bonuses or salary supplements. Categories for differentiated pay are additional academic responsibilities, school demographics, critical shortage areas, and level of job performance difficulties (including working in high-poverty, high-minority, or persistently lowest-achieving schools). • The LEA may scale up the compensation system 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>beginning with a cohort of schools, such as those that are considered persistently low-performing (the lowest 5% of schools in the state), as long as by the end of the grant, the compensation system applies district-wide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will provide annually to the Department its salary schedule indicating how this requirement has been met. 	
<p><u>(iv)(c) Use evaluations to inform tenure and/or full certification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will base decisions to award employment contracts to teachers and principals on effectiveness as demonstrated through annual evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii). 	
<p><u>(iv)(d) Use evaluations to inform removal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will base decisions surrounding reductions in staff, including teachers and principals holding employment contracts, on their level of effectiveness demonstrated on annual evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii). When this factor yields equal results, seniority and other factors may be used in decisions. The LEA will hold principals, their supervisors, and all LEA staff who have a responsibility in the dismissal process accountable for utilizing the process and timeline in statute (ss. 1012.33 and 1012.34, F.S.) to remove ineffective teachers from the classroom. The LEA will report annually to the Department through Survey 5 the teachers and principals who were dismissed for ineffective performance as 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>demonstrated through the district’s evaluation system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will report annually to the Department through Survey 5 the highly effective teachers and principals who have resigned or who are no longer employed by the District. 	
<p><u>(D)(3) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals:</u></p>	
<p><u>(i) High-poverty and/or high-minority schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will develop a plan, with timetables and goals, that uses effectiveness data from annual evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii) to attract and retain highly effective teachers and principals to schools that are high-poverty, high-minority, and persistently lowest-achieving. The LEA plan may also be designed to attract and retain new teachers from high performing teacher preparation programs as defined by the Department in the grant to these schools. • The LEA will implement a compensation system as described in (D)(2)(iv)(b) to provide incentives for encouraging effective teachers and principals to work in these schools. • The LEA will present a plan that includes strategies in addition to compensation to staff these schools with a team of highly effective teachers led by a highly effective principal, including how the success of these individuals will be supported by the district. • The LEA will report the effectiveness data of all teachers and principals annually during Survey 5. 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p><u>(ii) Hard-to-staff subjects and specialty areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will implement a compensation system as described in (D)(2)(iv)(b) to provide incentives for the recruitment of effective teachers in these subjects and areas. The LEA will implement recruitment and professional development strategies to increase the pool of teachers available in the district in these subject areas. 	
<p><u>(D)(5) Providing effective support to teachers and principals:</u></p>	
<p><u>(i) Quality professional development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will implement a district professional development system that utilizes the state’s protocol standards for effective professional development as follows: <p>For Teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistently lowest-achieving schools (schools in the lowest 5%) must modify the school schedules to accommodate lesson study. The LEA may modify school schedules for other schools to allow for common planning time by grade level (elementary) or subject area (secondary). Such planning time may be dedicated to lesson study focused on instructional quality, student work, and outcomes, without reducing time devoted to student instruction. Where lesson study is implemented, the LEA will devote a minimum 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>of one lesson study per month for each grade level or subject area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will ensure that professional development programs in all schools focus on the new common core standards, including assisting students with learning challenges to meet those standards (such as through accommodations and assistive technology). Such professional development will employ formative assessment and the principles of lesson study. • The LEA will implement IPDPs for teachers based on analysis of student performance data and results of prior evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii). • The LEA will implement a beginning teacher support program for teachers in the first and second year that integrates data from multiple evaluations, coaching/mentoring, and assistance on using student data to improve instruction; builds in time for observation of effective teachers; includes collaboration with colleges of education, as appropriate; and defines a clear process for selecting and training coaches/mentors. <p>For Principals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will implement professional development programs at all schools that focus on the new common standards, including assisting students with learning challenges to meet those standards. • The LEA will implement professional 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>development based on the principles of lesson study and formative assessment as described by the Department in this grant and the process needed to implement lesson study in a school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will implement ILDPs for principals based on analysis of student performance data and results of prior evaluations as described in (D)(2)(ii). 	
<p><u>(ii) Measure effectiveness of professional development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will evaluate professional development based on student results and changes in classroom/leadership practice (as appropriate for the teacher/principal). 	
<p><u>Toward the absolute priority of comprehensive education reform:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will document the use of Title II A funds specifically to supplement and enhance the initiatives implemented in this grant, including documentation in the district's budget for the first year and each subsequent year of the grant. 	
<p><u>E. Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools</u></p>	
<p><u>(E)(2) Turning around the lowest-achieving schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEA will select and implement one of the four school intervention models described in the grant application in all persistently lowest-achieving schools located in the district (see Appendix A to the MOU). The Department will identify the schools based upon the school categories devised for school accountability under 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>s. 1008.33, F.S., and set forth in proposed Rule 6A-1.099811, F.A.C. (see Appendices B and C to the MOU).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An LEA with more than nine persistently lowest-achieving schools will not select the transformational option for more than one-half of the schools. • All actions undertaken by the LEA under this element of the grant will be in accordance with the requirements of s. 1008.33, F.S. (Differentiated Accountability). • The LEA will submit a plan for the Department’s approval that implements one or more of the following programs in each persistently lowest-achieving school and within the feeder pattern of each persistently lowest-achieving high school: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Intervene schools, the LEA will implement a schedule that provides increased learning time beyond the minimum 180 days and/or implement an extended school day, beyond the current hours of instruction. 2. The LEA will offer prekindergarten on a full day basis using the Department’s Title I Full Day PreK model, for children residing in the attendance zone of such schools. 3. The LEA will expand opportunities for students to attend career and professional academies, especially STEM academies, under s. 1003.493, F.S. 4. The LEA will expand or introduce proven programs to encourage advanced classes, 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>positive behavior support systems, mentoring, and curriculum that provide high-need students with college-ready, career-ready, or other postsecondary skills.</p> <p>5. The Department may approve other programs that demonstrate a strong record of improving student achievement in these district schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will use effectiveness data from annual evaluations to determine incentives for the most effective teachers to work in the district’s elementary, middle, and high schools that are the persistently lowest-achieving. • The LEA will only assign new teachers (those in their first and second year) in the district’s schools that are the persistently lowest-achieving if these teachers have completed or are participating in a high-performing teacher preparation program, as defined in the grant application. The LEA will ensure that such teachers are provided additional support by staffing a mix of new and proven teachers across all content areas and grade levels in the school. 	
<p><u>F. General</u></p>	
<p><u>(F)(2) Ensuring successful conditions for high-performing charter schools and other innovative schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEA will offer charter schools located within their district the opportunity to participate in the grant on the same terms as any other district school. • Consistent with federal requirements, the LEA will ensure that participating charter schools 	

Elements of State Reform Plans	Comments from LEA (optional)
<p>receive a commensurate share of any grant funds and services funded by the grant.</p> <p>The LEA will provide data and reports necessary for the evaluation of the grant conducted by the Department's evaluation team and will require charter schools to provide the LEA with the data necessary for such evaluations.</p>	

For the Participating LEA

For the Florida Department of Education

Authorized LEA Signature/Date

Authorized State Signature/Date

Print Name/Title

Print Name/Title

APPENDIX A – SCHOOL INTERVENTION MODELS

(Appendix C in the Notice of Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria; and in the Notice Inviting Applications)

There are four school intervention models referred to in Selection Criterion (E)(2): turnaround model, restart model, school closure, or transformation model. Each is described below.

- (a) Turnaround model. (1) A turnaround model is one in which an LEA must--
- (i) Replace the principal and grant the principal sufficient operational flexibility (including in staffing, calendars/time, and budgeting) to implement fully a comprehensive approach in order to substantially improve student achievement outcomes and increase high school graduation rates;
 - (ii) Use locally adopted competencies to measure the effectiveness of staff who can work within the turnaround environment to meet the needs of students,
 - (A) Screen all existing staff and rehire no more than 50 percent; and
 - (B) Select new staff;
 - (iii) Implement such strategies as financial incentives, increased opportunities for promotion and career growth, and more flexible work conditions that are designed to recruit, place, and retain staff with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the students in the turnaround school;
 - (iv) Provide staff with ongoing, high-quality, job-embedded professional development that is aligned with the school’s comprehensive instructional program and designed with school staff to ensure that they are equipped to facilitate effective teaching and learning and have the capacity to successfully implement school reform strategies;
 - (v) Adopt a new governance structure, which may include, but is not limited to, requiring the school to report to a new “turnaround office” in the LEA or SEA, hire a “turnaround leader” who reports directly to the Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer, or enter into a multi-year contract with the LEA or SEA to obtain added flexibility in exchange for greater accountability;
 - (vi) Use data to identify and implement an instructional program that is research-based and “vertically aligned” from one grade to the next as well as aligned with State academic standards;
 - (vii) Promote the continuous use of student data (such as from formative, interim, and summative assessments) to inform and differentiate instruction in order to meet the academic needs of individual students;
 - (viii) Establish schedules and implement strategies that provide increased learning time (as defined in this notice); and
 - (ix) Provide appropriate social-emotional and community-oriented services and supports for students.
- (2) A turnaround model may also implement other strategies such as—
- (i) Any of the required and permissible activities under the transformation model; or
 - (ii) A new school model (*e.g.*, themed, dual language academy).
- (b) Restart model. A restart model is one in which an LEA converts a school or closes and reopens a school under a charter school operator, a charter management organization (CMO), or an education management organization (EMO) that has been selected through a rigorous review process. (A CMO is a non-profit organization that operates or manages charter schools by centralizing or sharing certain functions and resources among schools. An EMO is a for-profit or non-profit organization that provides “whole-school operation” services to an LEA.) A restart model must enroll, within the grades it serves, any former student who wishes to attend the school.

(c) School closure. School closure occurs when an LEA closes a school and enrolls the students who attended that school in other schools in the LEA that are higher achieving. These other schools should be within reasonable proximity to the closed school and may include, but are not limited to, charter schools or new schools for which achievement data are not yet available.

(d) Transformation model. A transformation model is one in which an LEA implements each of the following strategies:

(1) Developing and increasing teacher and school leader effectiveness.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Replace the principal who led the school prior to commencement of the transformation model;

(B) Use rigorous, transparent, and equitable evaluation systems for teachers and principals that--

(1) Take into account data on student growth (as defined in this notice) as a significant factor as well as other factors such as multiple observation-based assessments of performance and ongoing collections of professional practice reflective of student achievement and increased high-school graduations rates; and

(2) Are designed and developed with teacher and principal involvement;

(C) Identify and reward school leaders, teachers, and other staff who, in implementing this model, have increased student achievement and high-school graduation rates and identify and remove those who, after ample opportunities have been provided for them to improve their professional practice, have not done so;

(D) Provide staff with ongoing, high-quality, job-embedded professional development (*e.g.*, regarding subject-specific pedagogy, instruction that reflects a deeper understanding of the community served by the school, or differentiated instruction) that is aligned with the school's comprehensive instructional program and designed with school staff to ensure they are equipped to facilitate effective teaching and learning and have the capacity to successfully implement school reform strategies; and

(E) Implement such strategies as financial incentives, increased opportunities for promotion and career growth, and more flexible work conditions that are designed to recruit, place, and retain staff with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the students in a transformation school.

(ii) Permissible activities. An LEA may also implement other strategies to develop teachers' and school leaders' effectiveness, such as--

(A) Providing additional compensation to attract and retain staff with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the students in a transformation school;

(B) Instituting a system for measuring changes in instructional practices resulting from professional development; or

(C) Ensuring that the school is not required to accept a teacher without the mutual consent of the teacher and principal, regardless of the teacher's seniority.

(2) Comprehensive instructional reform strategies.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Use data to identify and implement an instructional program that is research-based and "vertically aligned" from one grade to the next as well as aligned with State academic standards; and

(B) Promote the continuous use of student data (such as from formative, interim, and summative assessments) to inform and differentiate instruction in order to meet the academic needs of individual students.

(ii) Permissible activities. An LEA may also implement comprehensive instructional reform strategies, such as--

(A) Conducting periodic reviews to ensure that the curriculum is being implemented with fidelity, is having the intended impact on student achievement, and is modified if ineffective;

(B) Implementing a schoolwide “response-to-intervention” model;

(C) Providing additional supports and professional development to teachers and principals in order to implement effective strategies to support students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment and to ensure that limited English proficient students acquire language skills to master academic content;

(D) Using and integrating technology-based supports and interventions as part of the instructional program; and

(E) In secondary schools--

(1) Increasing rigor by offering opportunities for students to enroll in advanced coursework (such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate; or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses, especially those that incorporate rigorous and relevant project-, inquiry-, or design-based contextual learning opportunities), early-college high schools, dual enrollment programs, or thematic learning academies that prepare students for college and careers, including by providing appropriate supports designed to ensure that low-achieving students can take advantage of these programs and coursework;

(2) Improving student transition from middle to high school through summer transition programs or freshman academies;

(3) Increasing graduation rates through, for example, credit-recovery programs, re-engagement strategies, smaller learning communities, competency-based instruction and performance-based assessments, and acceleration of basic reading and mathematics skills; or

(4) Establishing early-warning systems to identify students who may be at risk of failing to achieve to high standards or graduate.

(3) Increasing learning time and creating community-oriented schools.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Establish schedules and implement strategies that provide increased learning time (as defined in this notice); and

(B) Provide ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement.

(ii) Permissible activities. An LEA may also implement other strategies that extend learning time and create community-oriented schools, such as--

(A) Partnering with parents and parent organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, health clinics, other State or local agencies, and others to create safe school environments that meet students’ social, emotional, and health needs;

(B) Extending or restructuring the school day so as to add time for such strategies as advisory periods that build relationships between students, faculty, and other school staff;

(C) Implementing approaches to improve school climate and discipline, such as implementing a system of positive behavioral supports or taking steps to eliminate bullying and student harassment; or

(D) Expanding the school program to offer full-day kindergarten or pre-kindergarten.

(4) Providing operational flexibility and sustained support.

(i) Required activities. The LEA must--

(A) Give the school sufficient operational flexibility (such as staffing, calendars/time, and budgeting) to implement fully a comprehensive approach to substantially improve student achievement outcomes and increase high school graduation rates; and

(B) Ensure that the school receives ongoing, intensive technical assistance and related support from the LEA, the SEA, or a designated external lead partner organization (such as a school turnaround organization or an EMO).

(ii) Permissible activities. The LEA may also implement other strategies for providing operational flexibility and intensive support, such as--

(A) Allowing the school to be run under a new governance arrangement, such as a turnaround division within the LEA or SEA; or

(B) Implementing a per-pupil school-based budget formula that is weighted based on student needs.

If a school identified as a persistently lowest-achieving school has implemented, in whole or in part within the last two years, an intervention that meets the requirements of the turnaround, restart, or transformation models, the school may continue or complete the intervention being implemented.

APPENDIX B – LOWEST 5% OF TITLE I SCHOOLS (51)

District Name	School Name	DA 2008	DA 2009
ALACHUA	CHARLES W. DUVAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	PREVENT I	CORRECT II
ALACHUA	MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT I	CORRECT II
BROWARD	COCONUT CREEK HIGH SCHOOL*	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
BROWARD	LARKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	INTERVENE	INTERVENE
BROWARD	SUNLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
COLLIER	EDEN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*	NA	CORRECT II
COLLIER	IMMOKALEE HIGH SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SENIOR HIGH	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	CHARLES R. DREW MIDDLE SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	DR. HENRY W. MACK/WEST LITTLE RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT I	CORRECT II
DADE	FREDERICK R. DOUGLASS ELEMENTARY	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	HOLMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	INTERVENE	INTERVENE
DADE	HOMESTEAD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	LITTLE RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	MIAMI CAROL CITY SENIOR HIGH	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	MIAMI CENTRAL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	INTERVENE	INTERVENE
DADE	MIAMI EDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	MIAMI EDISON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	INTERVENE	INTERVENE
DADE	MIAMI JACKSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	MIAMI NORLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL*	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	MIAMI NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HIGH	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
DADE	MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR HIGH*	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
DADE	NORTH COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	NORTH MIAMI MIDDLE SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DADE	NORTH MIAMI SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL*	CORRECT II	CORRECT II

District Name	School Name	DA 2008	DA 2009
DADE	PINE VILLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT II	INTERVENE
DUVAL	A. PHILIP RANDOLPH ACADEMIES*	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
DUVAL	ANDREW JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL*	CORRECT II	INTERVENE
DUVAL	EDWARD H. WHITE HIGH SCHOOL*	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DUVAL	JEAN RIBAUTL HIGH SCHOOL*	PREVENT II	INTERVENE
DUVAL	LONG BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DUVAL	NATHAN B. FORREST HIGH SCHOOL*	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DUVAL	NORTH SHORE K-8	CORRECT II	INTERVENE
DUVAL	NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DUVAL	PAXON MIDDLE SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DUVAL	SMART POPE LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
DUVAL	WILLIAM M. RAINES HIGH SCHOOL*	CORRECT II	INTERVENE
ESCAMBIA	WARRINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL	INTERVENE	INTERVENE
GADSDEN	EAST GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
GADSDEN	WEST GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
HAMILTON	CENTRAL HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
HILLSBOROUGH	FRANKLIN MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL	INTERVENE	INTERVENE
HILLSBOROUGH	MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL	INTERVENE	INTERVENE
JEFFERSON	JEFFERSON COUNTY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	INTERVENE
LEON	AMOS P. GODBY HIGH SCHOOL*	NA	CORRECT II
MADISON	MADISON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL*	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
ORANGE	MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
PALM BEACH	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
PALM BEACH	LAKE WORTH HIGH SCHOOL*	NA	INTERVENE
PALM BEACH	ROSENWALD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORRECT II	CORRECT II
POLK	OSCAR J. POPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II

*Newly funded Title I schools for two years or less (not currently in need of improvement)

APPENDIX C – LOWEST 5% OF TITLE I-ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS (19)

District Name	School Name	DA 2008	DA 2009
ALACHUA	HAWTHORNE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	NA	CORRECT II
COLUMBIA	COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
HAMILTON	HAMILTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
HARDEE	HARDEE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
HENDRY	CLEWISTON HIGH SCHOOL	NA	CORRECT II
HERNANDO	HERNANDO HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
HERNANDO	CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
LAKE	LEESBURG HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
LEVY	WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL	NA	CORRECT II
ORANGE	EVANS HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
ORANGE	OAK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
OSCEOLA	GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
OSCEOLA	CELEBRATION HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
OSCEOLA	POINCIANA HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
PASCO	RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
PINELLAS	BOCA CIEGA HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
PINELLAS	DIXIE M. HOLLINS HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
PINELLAS	LAKESWOOD HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II
PINELLAS	GIBBS HIGH SCHOOL	PREVENT II	CORRECT II