Memorandum

Re: Low Performing Districts and Schools

Dear Superintendents:

Congratulations on a successful opening of schools. Since approximately sixty-five percent of the school districts in the state are impacted by the low performing statute, we included all of you in this correspondence. As a superintendent of a district with one or more schools that were identified as low performing or a superintendent seeking further information regarding low performing schools and districts, we would like to invite you to read the information below and act accordingly.

As you know the law regarding low performing schools and districts was implemented last year for the first time. As a reminder, the following information provides an overview of the current statutory definition and requirements for low performing districts and schools:

Definitions:

Low Performing LEAs are those administrative units in which the majority of the schools in that unit have been identified as low-performing (NC G.S. 115C-39A).

Low Performing Schools are those schools receiving a D or F School Performance Grade and a “met expected growth” or “not met expected growth” status (NC G.S. 115C-105.37).

Requirements:

All low performing schools and districts are required to submit plans for improving School Performance Grades and student growth to the NC State Board of Education.

Earlier in the summer we communicated that for the 2016-17 school year low performing school plans would be submitted through our NCStar system, a system many of you have utilized in Priority and Focus Schools as well as district wide by request. Utilizing this tool should prevent schools from having multiple plans for improvement, establish a system to keep the improvement planning process an active practice and allow schools to receive the statute required feedback from a NCDPI coach assigned through the system.

The training for the NCStar system has been going on across the state all summer in each of the regions and your involvement and enthusiasm has been great! Because we understand the summer is a busy time with people in and out of schools, we want to provide additional regionally based training sessions through our collaboration with Federal Program and Monitoring. The attached document includes a map with dates, times and places for upcoming training in October that allows ample time to have the training, plans developed and submitted through the system for feedback and meet the statute required timeline.
The feedback for the plans will be provided through the Service Support Teams across the state. Team members will be assigned as coaches through the NCStar system and may create opportunity for a dynamic conversation between school improvement teams and the state’s Service Support Teams. Needs identified in this process could help us identify topics for Principal Ready, Assistant Principal Ready, and other professional development opportunities.

If this is your first experience with the low performing statute, or reviewing the requirements would be helpful, we will offer a webinar explaining in greater detail the specific requirements in the law. The webinar(s) will take place at the times listed below:

Monday, September 19, 2016 2:00-3:00 PM  Low Performing Schools Webinar
  • https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4886511525799683075

Monday, September 19, 2016 3:00-4:00 PM  Low Performing Districts Webinar
  • https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7238362499566149379

Monday, September 26, 2016 9:00-10:00 AM  Low Performing Schools Webinar (Repeat)
  • https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3890730024011468803

Monday, September 26, 2016 10:00-11:00 AM  Low Performing Districts Webinar (Repeat)
  • https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3530034135007943171

Please note the webinars are repeated to help accommodate schedules. It is not necessary to attend all four webinars.

In the meantime, please be sure the principal and NCStar Administrator for each low performing school has been trained or registers and attends the training in the attached document. We will work closely with each of you through the process and hope you find NCStar to be a helpful and engaging tool.