

IOWA Department of Education

School Improvement
SINA Updates and Guidance

Welcome

Agenda

- Background, Waiver, Reauthorization - Amy Williamson
- Compliance with SINA in 2012-13 - Amy Williamson
- Compliance with SINA in 2013-14 -Amy Williamson
- Legal Summary - Thomas Mayes
- Examples and Non-examples - Geri McMahan
- Questions & Resources - Karla Day

- Review of SINA plans this year in School Improvement bureau
 - Some issues with corrective actions meeting legal standards
 - Some issues with restructuring meeting legal standards, particularly "other" category
 - Required to uncertify plans once noncompliance detected
 - Working with schools, statewide support team, AEAs to bring plans into compliance **by March 1** and plan for next year
- No waiver
- Reauthorization unlikely

Compliance with SINA in 2012-13

- Do not need to go back and rewrite plan from the beginning
- Do need to correct minimum language and actions to make plan approvable for this year
- Corrective actions must be those listed in ESEA
- Restructuring or planning for restructuring must be one of the actions listed in ESEA
 - If choosing "other" restructuring you must talk in your plan about how the actions effect the governance of the school

- In year 3 you must choose an appropriate corrective action
- In year 4 or beyond (planning for or implementing restructuring) the following apply:
 - You are required to plan for/implement one of the restructuring options in ESEA
 - If you select "other" restructuring you will be required to provide evidence that the activity qualifies as "other major restructuring of the school's governance"

Year 3 (Corrective Action)

In addition to parent choice, SES, and TA, the LEA must require that the school do one of the following things:

- Institute a new curriculum grounded in scientifically based research and provide appropriate professional development to support its implementation
 - Note the language: not just “research based”
- Extend the length of the school year or school day
- Replace the school staff who are deemed relevant to the school not making adequate progress
- Significantly decrease management authority at the school
- Restructure the internal organization of the school
 - Note the object of “restructuring”: internal organization
- Appoint one or more outside experts to advise the school (1) how to revise and strengthen the improvement plan it created while in school improvement status; and (2) how to address the specific issues underlying the school’s continued inability to make AYP

Years 4 and 5 (Restructuring)

Under the statute, the LEA must include one of the following “alternative governance” arrangements for the school in its plan for restructuring, consistent with State law:

- Reopen the school as a public charter school
- Replace all or most of the school staff, which may include the principal, who are relevant to the school’s inability to make AYP
- Enter into a contract with an entity, such as a private management company, with a demonstrated record of effectiveness, to operate the school as a public school
- Turn the operation of the school over to the SEA if this action is permitted under State law and the State agrees [NOT AN OPTION IN IOWA]
- Implement any other major restructuring of the school’s governance arrangement that is consistent with the NCLB principles of restructuring.

→ Note the object of “restructuring”: governance

Years 4 and 5 (Restructuring): Other Major Restructuring of Governance

According to the statute, “any other major restructuring of the school’s governance arrangement” is a major reorganization of a school’s governance that meets both prongs of the following two-part test:

- “Makes fundamental reforms, such as significant changes in the school’s staffing and governance, to improve student academic achievement in the school”
- “Has substantial promise to improve student academic achievement and enable the school to make AYP as defined by the State’s accountability system”
→ Note the language: “substantial promise ...”

The language is important: “major,” “fundamental,” and “substantial.”

What qualifies as “other major restructuring of the school’s governance”?

1. Change the governance structure of the school in a significant manner that either
 - Diminishes school-based management and decision-making **or**
 - Increases control, monitoring, and oversight of the school’s operations and educational program by the district
2. Close the school and reopen it as a focus or theme school (e.g. math and science, dual language)
3. Reconstitute the school into smaller autonomous learning communities (e.g., learning academies)
4. Dissolve the school and assign students to other schools in the district
5. Pair the school with a higher performing school (such that all students in grades K-3 from both schools are together, 4-5 together)
6. Expand or narrow the grades served

What *does not* qualify as “other major restructuring of the school’s governance”?

- changes in curriculum
- changes in assessment
- use of new technology
- use of new data systems
- providing professional development
- extending the length of school year or school day

Questions & Resources

For more information:

U.S. Department of Education
LEA and School Improvement Non-Regulatory Guidance
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