

Identifying Level 4 Schools

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS ON UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS 603 CMR 2.00

- Presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for initial review and vote to solicit public comment: **January 26, 2010**
- Period of public comment: **through March 12, 2010**
- Final Action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Anticipated: **March 23, 2010**

Background:

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One section of these proposed regulations, concerning placement of schools in Level 4 (“underperforming schools”), was released for review and public comment as of January 26, 2010. (See <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/proposed/603cmr2.doc>) The public comment period on that proposed regulation ends on March 12, 2010. Following review of comments and after making any necessary revisions, the Board is expected to take a final vote on the regulation at its regular meeting on March 23, 2010. The regulation on placement of schools in Level 4 is also incorporated in revised form as section 2.05(2) below:

(2) Placement of schools in Level 4

- (a) A school shall be eligible for placement in Level 4 if it scores in the lowest 20 percent statewide of schools serving common grade levels on a single measure developed by the Department that takes into account:
 - (i) school MCAS performance over a four-year period based on Composite Performance Index (CPI) in English language arts; CPI in mathematics; and percentages of students scoring in the “warning” or “failing” category on MCAS; and
 - (ii) beginning on July 1, 2011, improvement in school MCAS performance as represented by change in CPI (for years available, up to four).
- (b) The commissioner shall designate a school for placement in Level 4 on the basis of quantitative data including but not limited to:
 - (i) school MCAS performance over a four-year period based on Composite Performance Index (CPI) in English language arts; CPI in mathematics; and percentages of students scoring in the “warning” or “failing” category on MCAS;
 - (ii) improvement in school MCAS performance as represented by change in CPI (for years available, up to four);
 - (iii) annual growth in MCAS performance for students at the school as compared with peers across the Commonwealth (for years available, up to four),
 - (iv) in the case of high schools, graduation and dropout rates for high schools, and
 - (v) other indicators of school performance including student attendance, dismissal, suspension, exclusion, and promotion rates upon the determination of each indicator’s reliability and validity, or lack of demonstrated significant improvement for two or more consecutive years in core academic subjects, either in the aggregate or among

subgroups of students, including designations based on special education, low-income, English language proficiency, and racial classifications.

- (c) The commissioner may place an eligible school in Level 4 of the framework for district accountability and assistance on the basis of any of the data listed in 603 CMR 2.05(2)(b)(i)-(v) or on the basis of information from a school or district review performed under M.G.L. c.15, s 55A.
- (d) Not more than 4 percent of the total number of public schools may be placed in Levels 4 and 5, taken together, at any given time.
- (e) Any school designated by the Board as chronically underperforming prior to 2010 may be placed in Level 4.

Methodology Used to Identify 35 Level 4 Schools for 2010

- Identified lowest performing 20% of schools by school type based on 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 Composite Performance Index (CPI) in mathematics and ELA and percent warning/failing in mathematics and ELA.
- Identified lowest performing 4% (72) based on the above criteria
- Of the 4%, we identified the least improving 33 based on four-year improvement trends in CPI for mathematics and ELA as well as student growth percentile for each of two years for elementary and middle schools and one year for high schools.
- Identified the two previously declared “chronically underperforming” schools to include in the 2010 Level 4 schools.