

# ASSISTANCE

*plus*

## for Lowest Performing Schools

### *A+ Assistance to Build A+ Schools*

#### Assistance for Schools with Performance Grade F for 2001-2002

- ◆ Just Read, Florida is committing 11 million dollars to provide reading coaches trained in scientifically-based reading research to lowest performing schools, with priority to F schools
- ◆ Sponsor **Florida Assistance Plus Summit** to give new tools and standardized protocols to district administrators, principals, and School Advisory Council chairs in F schools
  - Go “inside the numbers” to analyze data and pinpoint critical needs
  - Diagnose individual student achievement at the beginning of the school year
  - Connect with expert assistance options
  - Standardize school improvement protocols and specify expected results in new plans
  - Build new district and school plans for local and State Board of Education approval
  - Ensure the connection between assistance and school improvement plans
- ◆ Coordinate **Assistance Plus Teams**--a team of experts unique for every F<sup>2</sup> school and every district with an F or a D school
- ◆ **Match** F schools to higher performing schools and monitor the use of successful practices
- ◆ Use **existing structures and resources more effectively** to assist schools, including:
  - School Advisory Councils
  - Outstanding teachers, Teachers of the Year, Florida League teachers, Nationally Board Certified teachers, and other distinguished educators
  - Exemplary principals recognized for outstanding leadership
  - Community and business partners
  - Higher education partners
- ◆ Assign a **department person** with school improvement experience to coordinate the efforts of each F school until the school sustains improvement
- ◆ Use **best practices** and research-based models
- ◆ Ensure the availability of **diagnostic tools** to all F schools
- ◆ **Coordinate continuous progress reporting and feedback** from schools, district, and state to include:
  - Bi-weekly conference calls with School Advisory Council Chairs and principals
  - Monthly reports to State Board of Education from state, districts, and schools

#### Assistance for D Schools

- ◆ Coordinate district or regional **Assistance Plus Team**
- ◆ **Coordinate continuous progress reporting and feedback** from schools, district, and state to include:
  - Quarterly conference calls with School Advisory Council Chairs and principals
  - Quarterly reports to State Board of Education from state, districts, and schools

#### Assistance for C and Above Schools

As determined by school's specific needs

**We are raising the bar on schools and, at the same time, raising the bar on our level of support and targeted assistance to schools with one or two F grades.**

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### FLORIDA'S History of Assistance to Lowest Performing Schools -- 1995 to 2002

- Assigned regional Department of Education school improvement facilitators
- Over 2,300 visits to D and F schools to provide site-specific assistance
- Extensive cost savings and cost effectiveness in networking and brokering services to D and F schools, resulting in nine (9) Davis Productivity Awards
- Provided research-based strategies to districts, D and F schools, and School Advisory Councils
- Developed a data collection and reporting system for D and F schools
- Identified higher-performing schools and recommended matches for every D and F school
- Compiled and distributed best practices to all D and F schools
- Give priority to D and F schools for discretionary grants
- Targeted Supplemental Academic Instruction funds for lowest performing schools

### STATEWIDE RESULTS

Rising Standards And Higher Accountability Lead To Improved Performance

