

Differentiated Accountability Fact Sheet

General

- During the summer of 2008, Florida was one of six states selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's Differentiated Accountability (DA) pilot program.
- Participation in the program allows Florida to classify its schools that are in need of improvement into several categories based on their state-assigned letter grade, the percentage of federal proficiency requirements met (called Adequate Yearly Progress or AYP), and the number of years they have failed to achieve all federal requirements.
- Based on these factors, schools are assigned to one of six categories – Non-DA, Prevent I, Prevent II, Correct I, Correct II and Intervene – with varying levels of support provided depending on the amount of improvement needed to reach federal and state proficiency goals. The Intervene category is the category that involves the most support services.
- The types of support will vary based on the needs of the school but are geared toward areas of improvement such as school-wide planning, leadership development, teacher training, curriculum, school choice, tutoring, data analysis and monitoring progress.

Expanded Program

- In its initial implementation, only Title I schools (schools that receive federal funding for low-income students), and non-Title I schools that received a state grade of "D" or "F" were included in the DA program.
- However, Governor Crist recently signed House Bill 991 into law which makes the DA program Florida's permanent system of accountability and school improvement and expands the program to include all public schools in the state that have missed AYP for two consecutive years regardless of their state-assigned grade..
- With the signing of this legislation, all public schools will have access to escalating district and state support services designed to ensure an equal, quality education for every student.

Regional State Support

- A key focus of the DA program is on the state's most struggling schools – those schools found in the Correct II and Intervene categories.
- These schools typically maintain lower school grades and continually miss a majority of federal AYP requirements.
- Prior to the establishment of the DA program, school improvement focused mainly on monitoring these schools with little direct assistance in the area of teaching, professional development and learning.
- Under the DA program, the Florida Department of Education has established five Regional Teams throughout the state to work directly with each low-performing school to enact changes that will result in improved student achievement.
- These teams are led by individuals that have proven records of increasing student achievement in low-performing schools and their ongoing collaboration with district and school staff is a critical part of the DA program.
- This is a monumental shift toward a truly shared partnership.

Visit <http://www.flbsi.org/DA/regional.htm> for map and regional contacts.