

BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP MODEL TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS

Using a net of local and state supports and resources to help communities provide each student with the access and opportunity for a quality education

GOAL

To improve student academic achievement by identifying schools in need of additional support, and drawing up a partnership agreement with the school and community partners to generate a plan for success.

HOW IT WORKS

- Using an A-F state accountability system, any district with one or more “F” schools would be eligible. Districts with one or more “D” schools potentially could select to participate, pending State Superintendent review and capacity.
- With multiple partners at the table—including local board members, the ISD, education organizations, tribal education councils, business, community members, parents, higher education organizations, foundations—identify a plan of supports and interventions that will improve student outcomes.
 - Academic outcomes are a primary focus.
 - Other whole child outcomes that can impede improved academics—like health, nutrition, behavior, social/emotional—also are addressed.
- The district has 90 days to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment, craft a plan, and have the local school board and superintendent, charter authorizers (if applicable), and the MDE sign off on this plan.
- Timelines:
 - 90 days to complete an agreed-to and signed plan
 - 18 months to show progress on intermediate measures identified
 - » Example: if part of the plan includes hiring a new principal at the school, a new principal should be hired by this point.
 - Three years to demonstrate improved academic outcomes, as well as improved child outcomes on other measures.
- If at any point in time, a district fails to meet benchmarks or implement the plan, the State Superintendent can signal that s/he would like to implement the next level of accountability.
- Consequences for failing to meet any of those recognized benchmarks will be spelled out in the plan that was agreed-to by the district.

BENEFITS OF THE PARTNERSHIP MODEL

- Puts a broad spectrum of technical expertise and resources in the hands of the struggling school district, and allows local districts to use community and state-level support systems to drive improvement and self-accountability.
- Provides the districts with a fair amount of time to implement its plan and realize positive outcomes.
- The ultimate benefit would be to regenerate a struggling school to be one that helps students and teachers achieve at higher levels.