

Regulations Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws §16-7.1-5.1

Summary Sheet

Authorizing Statute: R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7.1-5.1 (d) (1) and (2)

Overview:

- These legislatively required, statewide regulations provide criteria and a procedure for determining the end of turnaround status for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) subject to intervention and support pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7.1-5, and to return control over the operation of such LEAs from the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education (Council) back to the local authority.
- These proposed regulations were created by looking at similar regulatory language from Massachusetts and adjusting language to tailor the regulations to meet Rhode Island's specific requirements.
- RIDE has developed these proposed regulations with input from public education stakeholders and national experts and by examining education policy best practices.
- Consistent with Massachusetts, these regulations are drafted to apply to any LEA that may be under the Council and the Rhode Island Department of Education's control.

Key Provisions:

- The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education shall include within an LEA's turnaround plan progress measures that the LEA must meet to exit turnaround status. This includes progress metrics to be included in any turnaround plan.
- Progress metrics must at a minimum:
 - Be customized to the particular reasons for which the LEA was first entered into turnaround status under the Crowley Act;
 - Be informed by input from community and other stakeholder engagement that helped inform the creation of the turnaround plan;
 - Include academic measures that align to relevant components of the local education agency accountability system, as identified in R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-97.1-1; and,
 - Include any additional progress measures identified for specific LEAs pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7.1-5.1.
- Other non-academic progress measures may include the successful completion of implementation milestones that address root causes that contributed to the LEA's entering of turnaround status.
- Prior to the end of any order pertaining to the LEA's turnaround status and following input from a variety of community and other stakeholders, the Commissioner will craft a report for the Council before the end of any order under R.I. Gen. Law § 16-7.1-5. This report shall include:
 - An analysis if the LEA has made significant progress towards achieving its turnaround plan goals; and,
 - A review of the local governance capacity and readiness (at the LEA, school committee, and responsible municipal agency levels) to sustain and support the LEA's continued progress.
- The Commissioner's report will recommend whether to:
 1. Renew the existing turnaround plan, with potential amendments informed by the above analysis;
 2. Create a new turnaround plan; or,
 3. Exit the LEA from turnaround status and return control over the LEA to the LEA's respective local authorities(including a specific date for return to local control).



- i. The Commissioner may recommend that an LEA's return to local control be subject to a transitional period.
- If the Commissioner's report recommends a transitional period before completely returning the LEA back to local control, then the LEA and state may continue to use provisions of the LEA's turnaround plan during the transitional period. The transitional period:
 - May last for a period of two years before being reviewed, using the same reporting structure outlined above.
 - Must outline the specific retained measures of the turnaround plan, including any progressive levels of control retained by RIDE, and progress measures used to evaluate when the transition period will be discontinued.
 - If, during, or at the conclusion of a transitional period, the Commissioner concludes that the return of control over the operation of the LEA to local control would not be in the best interests of students in the LEA, the Commissioner shall submit a report to the Council, consistent with the process outlined above, in support of the LEA's continued turnaround status and resumption of state control over the LEA.

Public Comment Process:

- In accordance with Rhode Island General Law § 42-35-2.8 the purpose of this hearing is to invite comments from the public on the proposed Regulations Governing the Intervention and Support for Failing Schools.
- If you wish to offer a comment this evening, sign in to comment on the proposal with your name, organization, or affiliation, and whether you intend to support or oppose the proposal.
- We will honor every participant that has signed up to give comments in the order in which they signed up.
- Please keep comments at or below 2 minutes. Please approach the podium and keep comments focused on the regulatory proposal that is before us tonight.
- You may hear the timer ring at the 2-minute mark. If you do, feel free to finish your thoughts or sentence. In the interest of time and allowing others to provide feedback, we may respectfully interrupt if you run over 2 minutes.
- If you have additional comments that you were unable to get to, we have a computer where you can complete your spoken comment with a written submission. All comments, written or verbal, are summarized as one comment per commentor.
- You can address RIDE in any language that is most comfortable for you. RIDE will then translate the recording.
- RIDE will compile all comments, which will then help inform the Commissioner's recommendation regarding the proposals to the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. If you do not wish to provide a spoken comment, you may provide written comment at the laptop station.
- In addition to this hearing, you may submit written comment until December 18th, by e-mailing **regspubliccomment@ride.ri.gov** or you may mail your comments to Rhode Island Department of Education at 255 Westminster St. Providence, RI 02903.