State School Reform/Redesign Office

At a Glance

Vision:
Every student in Michigan will have a quality education that prepares them for career and college success.

Mission:
The State School Reform/Redesign Office (Reform Office) exists to advance dramatic improvement in Michigan's lowest achieving schools by assisting staff in developing, implementing, and monitoring effective school redesign plans.

Value:
Every student in Michigan is entitled to a quality education regardless of their socio-economic status.

State School Reform/Redesign Office

In 2010, the Michigan Legislature passed a law requiring the State Superintendent to publish a list identifying the public schools in the state that have been determined to be among the lowest achieving five percent of all public schools in the state.

Each school on the list must submit a redesign plan to the state; and the plan must include one of the four school intervention models identified by the U.S. Department of Education.

The State School Reform/Redesign Office reviews and approves or disapproves those plans and provides technical assistance to schools on the list. Further details can be found in the MCL 380.1280c.

Responsibilities

Schools are placed under the supervision of the Reform Office as a result of being identified as the lowest achieving five percent of schools in the state.

The goals of the Reform Office are:

1. Establish policies and procedures for rapid turnaround in these schools.
2. Coordinate reform efforts for the schools across the Department of Education to ensure thorough integration of activities and monitoring of schools.
4. Develop policies and strategies to support effective school leaders in the schools, including principals and teacher leaders.
5. Identify, advocate and recommend policies that ensure the reallocation of academic and financial resources to support the implementation of school plans.
6. Identify and develop tools and resources to ensure schools implement effective school redesign plans.

Schools in Reform Office

Once a school has been identified as being among the lowest achieving five percent of all public schools in the state, the State Superintendent shall issue an order placing each public school under the supervision of the State School Reform/Redesign Officer (Reform Officer).
Within 90 days after a public school is placed under the supervision of the Reform Officer, the local school board or board of directors operating the public school shall submit a redesign plan to the Reform Officer. For a public school operated by a school board, the redesign plan shall be developed with input from the local teacher bargaining unit and the local superintendent.

The redesign plan shall require implementation of one of the four school intervention models identified by the U.S. Department of Education. These models are the turnaround model, restart model, school closure, and transformation model.

Within 30 days after receipt of a redesign plan for a public school, the Reform Officer shall issue an order approving, disapproving, or making changes to the redesign plan.

The Reform Officer shall not disapprove a redesign plan that includes all of the elements required under federal law for the school intervention model included in the redesign plan. A school board or board of directors may appeal disapproval of a redesign plan on this basis to the State Superintendent, whose decision on the appeal is final.

If the Reform Officer approves a redesign plan, the local school board or board of directors shall implement the redesign plan for the public school beginning with the next school year after the approval. The school board or board of directors shall regularly submit monitoring reports to the Reform Officer on the implementation and results of the plan in the form and manner, and according to a schedule, as determined by the Reform Officer.

The State School Reform District

If the Reform Officer does not approve the redesign plan, or determines that the redesign plan is not achieving satisfactory results, the Reform Officer shall issue an order placing the public school in the State School Reform/Redesign School District (Reform District), imposing for the public school implementation of a school intervention model beginning with the start of the next school year.

The Reform Officer shall act as the superintendent of the Reform District.

The Reform Officer has all of the powers and duties that would otherwise apply to the school board that previously operated a school placed in the Reform District apply to the Reform Officer with respect to that school.

If the Reform Officer determines that a public school under his/her supervision has made significant improvement in pupil achievement and should be released from the Reform District, the Reform Officer may recommend this to the State Superintendent. If the State Superintendent agrees with the determination and recommendation, the public school may released from the Reform District.