



TOP-1



Turnaround Option Plan—Step 1(TOP-1)

3-Options

1. Reassignment/Closure
2. Charter
3. External Operator/Outside Entity

[District]
[School Name]

Due: September 1 for Cycle 1 or November 1 for Cycle 2-4

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to guide districts to plan for the implementation of one of the three turnaround options (Reassignment/Closure, Charter or Outside Entity/External Operator) to improve the school’s grade to a “C” or higher.

Directions

Districts shall complete this Step 1 form for each school that has selected one of the three turnaround options (Reassignment/Closure, Charter or External Operator/Outside Entity). This completed form must be signed by the superintendent or authorized representative and emailed to BSI@fldoe.org, no later than September 1 if one of these three options is Cycle 1 or November 1 if Cycle 2-4. The subject line of the email must include district name, school name and TOP-1.

School

In the box below, identify the name and MSID number of the school that will be supported through the turnaround option plan.

School Name/ MSID Number

Stakeholder Engagement

In the box below, describe the district’s efforts to engage and involve stakeholders, including the Community Assessment Team (CAT), to determine causes for low performance, and make recommendations for school improvement. Include a list of names and affiliation of CAT members. The Regional Executive Director (RED) or their designee shall be a member of the CAT. Include a list of meetings that were held regarding the development of the turnaround option plan, as well as scheduled meetings that will be held during implementation of the plan.

Names and affiliation of CAT members:

Dates of CAT meetings (held and upcoming meetings):

What school data was analyzed?

Identified causes of low performance:

Recommendations for school improvement:

Other information:

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Needs Assessment

The district is responsible for documenting a needs assessment that uses quantitative and qualitative data to identify the needs of the school system, including needs identified by families and the community.

The summary of the needs assessment results must address points of strength and opportunities for growth in the school system (at both the district and school level) in each of these three domains:

1. Accountable and Shared Leadership
2. Standards-based Instruction and Learning (for student and adult learners)
3. Positive Culture and Environment

In the box below, describe the methodology used for the needs assessment, including 3-year data trends from the state, district and school levels. Include a review of all strategies to determine which are improving the school and should be reinforced or supplemented, as well as which strategies are not resulting in improvement.

Describe the methodology used for needs assessment, including 3-year data trends from the state, district and school levels.

Identify strategies that have evidence of improvement at the school and how they will be reinforced or supplemented.

Identify strategies that have not resulted in improvement. What will be done differently?

Select One Turnaround Option

Check the box to indicate the turnaround option selected by the district.

- Reassignment/Closure (RC):** Reassign students to another school and monitor the progress of each reassigned student.
- Charter (CH):** Close the school and reopen the school as one or more charter schools, each with a governing board that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness.
- External Operator/Outside Entity (EO):** Contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school.

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Selected Turnaround Option Plan Rationale

In the box below, describe the district’s efforts to engage and involve stakeholders, CAT and the school leadership team in the selection of one of the three turnaround options. Provide the rationale for the selected turnaround option.

Complete only the section for the selected turnaround option.

The district must agree to ALL of the assurances for the selected turnaround option by checking the corresponding boxes.

Reassignment/Closure (RC)

Assurance 1: Close and Reassign Students

- The district shall close the school and reassign students to higher-performing schools with a “C” or higher in the district. *A new school does not qualify since it does not have a record of performance.*
- The district shall ensure that students from the closed school are not assigned to instructional personnel who are rated as Unsatisfactory or Needs Improvement based upon both the three-year aggregated state VAM ratings, if applicable, and the district evaluation system.

Assurance 2: Monitoring Reassigned Students

- The district shall monitor the reassigned students and report their progress to the department for three years on a quarterly basis. Reports shall include attendance, grades and progress monitoring data aligned to Florida’s Standards, record of instructional personnel assignment, and three-year aggregated state VAM rating. The district shall provide quarterly reports to the RED.

Assurance 3: Reassignment of Instructional Personnel and Administrators

- The district shall ensure that instructional personnel rated as Unsatisfactory or Needs Improvement based on the three-year aggregated state VAM rating are not reassigned to other Differentiated Accountability (DA) schools within the district.
- The district shall ensure that administrators from a school closed through selection of this turnaround option are not reassigned at other DA schools within the district.

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Charter (CH)

Assurance 1: Close and Reopen School

- The district shall close the school and reopen it as a charter or multiple charters.

Assurance 2: Contracting with Charter Organization

- The district shall enter into a contract with the charter organization following established district policies and procedures for contracting with external providers.

Assurance 3: Selecting a Successful Organization

- The district shall select a charter organization that has a record of school improvement in turning around schools that are high-poverty and low-performing with students of similar demographics.

Assurance 4: Selecting Instructional Staff

- The district shall ensure that instructional personnel rated as Unsatisfactory and Needs Improvement based on both the three-year aggregated state VAM rating, if applicable, and on the district's approved evaluation system, pursuant to section 1012.34, F.S., shall not be staffed at the school.

External Operator/Outside Entity (EO)

Assurance 1: Selecting a Successful EO

- The district shall select an EO that has a record of school improvement in turning around schools that are high-poverty and low-performing with students of similar demographics.

Assurance 2: Selecting Leadership

- The district and the EO shall ensure the incoming principal and school leadership team have a successful record in leading turnaround schools and the qualifications to support the population being served.

Assurance 3: Selecting Instructional Staff

- The district and the EO shall ensure that instructional personnel rated as Unsatisfactory and Needs Improvement based on both the three-year aggregated state VAM rating, if applicable, and on the district's approved evaluation system, pursuant to section 1012.34, F.S., shall not be staffed at the school.
- If the district establishes a district-managed charter school, the district shall ensure all instructional personnel are not employees of the school district, but are employees of an independent governing board composed of members who did not participate in the review or approval of the charter.

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Assurance 4: Contracting with the EO

The district shall enter into a contract with an EO to operate the school, following established district policies and procedures. To ensure the district is well positioned in contract negotiations with an EO for the upcoming school year, the following must be addressed in the contract:

1. Services and responsibilities for leadership and instructional staffing, curriculum and instruction, assessments and progress monitoring, professional development and any other identified school improvement areas.
2. The EO has a record of school improvement in turning around schools that are high-poverty and low-performing with students of similar demographics.
3. The role of the EO in the recruitment, selection and placement of instructional personnel with proven experience and capacity to serve students who may need intensive remediation and instruction.
4. The role of the EO in the recruitment, selection, placement, training and oversight of the school leadership team, including specific information about the EO's authority in these areas.
5. A detailed provision outlining the new or modified services to be provided by the EO if the district had an existing contract with the EO.
6. A detailed budget.

Timelines

This timeline applies if the district selects RC.

For Cycle 1, if the district selects RC, the district acknowledges that the plan (TOP-2) is due to the Department by October 1.

For Cycle 2-4, if the district selects RC, the district acknowledges that the plan (TOP-2) is due to the Department by January 31.

This timeline applies if the district selects either CH or EO.

For Cycle 1, the district acknowledges that the plan (TOP-2) and the CH or EO contract is due to the Department by October 1.

For Cycle 2-4, the district acknowledges that the plan (TOP-2) and proposed CH or EO contract are due to the Department by January 31 and the district school board approved CH or EO contract is due to the Department by May 1.

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Request for Extension of Turnaround Plan, Criteria and Due Date

The district requests additional time to implement its turnaround plan for the following year. The district meets the following conditions and shall provide evidence that the school is likely to improve to a “C” or higher by the end of following school year.

Upon request from the district, the SBE may grant additional time for the district to implement its current turnaround plan if the following conditions are met:

1. The request is received by the Department on or before November 1 on this form;
2. The request demonstrates that the school has a positive trajectory using the grade components listed in s. 1008.34(3)(b), F.S.;
3. The request demonstrates that the DA school has no Unsatisfactory rated instructional personnel and the percentage of Needs Improvement instructional personnel must be at or below the district VAM average where the district has more than five schools, or the state VAM average where the district has five or fewer schools; and
4. During the remainder of the implementation of the turnaround plan, the district agrees to staff the school with no Unsatisfactory rated instructional personnel and maintain or improve the school’s VAM average, as provided in Rule 6A-1.099811(15)(a)4., F.A.C.

In the box below, the district must provide evidence that the school met the above conditions. Explain how the school will improve to a grade of at least a “C” during an extended period of implementation of the turnaround plan. Outline any changes in activities and strategies that will occur should additional time be granted by the SBE.

Evidence that the five conditions were met:

Explain how the school will improve to a “C” or higher:

Outline proposed changes and strategies that will occur during the extended period:

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Acknowledgement

The district verifies the information in this form and confirms that they have collaborated with the school and the RED.

Name and title of person responsible for completion and submission of the TOP-1
Contact information: email, phone number
Date submitted to the Bureau of School Improvement
Superintendent Signature (or authorized representative)