



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org



**TOP-2**



## **Turnaround Option Plan—Step 2(TOP-2)**

Closure (RC)

**Hillsborough County Public Schools  
Just Elementary Riverwalk STEM Academy**

*Due: October 1 for Cycle 1 or January 31 for Cycle 2-4*

Form Number TOP-2, RC, incorporated in Rule 6A-1.099811, F.A.C., effective December 19, 2019

## Turnaround Option Plan—Step 2 (TOP-2) Closure

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to guide districts to develop a plan for implementation of the turnaround option Closure (RC). The district shall provide the Department with this plan for approval by the State Board of Education (SBE).

### Directions

Districts shall complete this Step 2 form for each school for which the district is selecting RC. This completed form must be signed by the superintendent or authorized representative and emailed to [BSI@fldoe.org](mailto:BSI@fldoe.org) no later than October 1 if this is Cycle 1 or January 31 if Cycle 2-4. The subject line of the email must include district name, school name and TOP-2(RC).

### School

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

School Name/ MSID Number
Just Elementary Riverwalk STEM Academy / 290282

### RC Assurances

The district must agree to ALL of the following assurances by checking the boxes below.

#### 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 are not assigned to instructional personnel rated as Unsatisfactory or Needs Improvement based on both the three-year aggregated state Value-added Model (VAM) rating, if applicable, and the district evaluation system.

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### Description of how the district will address Assurance 1: Close and Reassign Students

#### Assurance 1: Closure of School

HCPS elects to close Just Elementary School temporarily and use it for district office space while we work with community leaders to reestablish future facility usage that best meet the needs of students and families in the community.

School Demographics: Just Elementary School is comprised of 283 students and 13 core instructional staff. It is a small school situated in the heart of the Tampa Bay area. Ethnicity: 80% black, 2% white, 13% Hispanic, 5% ELL, 17% ESE and 2% gifted.

In the summer of 2022, Hillsborough County Public Schools contracted with WXY Studios to study the district's school enrollment patterns and school utilization. At the conclusion of their study, the consultants provided three scenarios looking at current school boundaries, feeder patterns, and school program locations in order to balance enrollment throughout the county and best plan for future school needs.

The district hosted several virtual and in person community meetings to gather feedback and input from parents, staff, and the community. In addition, small group meetings were held with community leaders and organizations to share the data and the potential impact. At the community meetings, all stakeholders were afforded time to speak on the recommendations to make their concerns, support, and/or suggestions known. We received more than 330,000 views on the dedicated boundary webpage, 15,000+ comments on the proposed scenario maps, more than 124,000 home address searches, and more than 1,250 participants at the 15 community meetings.

School Board Members held workshops and meetings, open to public comment, throughout the course of the boundary analysis. Following all the public input meetings the Hillsborough County School Board voted to accept the superintendent's plan that included the closure of Adams Middle School.

Rationale: Just Elementary Riverwalk STEM Academy's five-year projection is estimated at 46% capacity. This is mainly due to the fluctuation of student enrollment due to housing development, immigration patterns, charter school growth, and Florida school choice policies. The closure plan includes new school assignments for Just Elementary Riverwalk STEM Academy students. The rezoning allows for other underutilized schools to receive students from Just Elementary Riverwalk STEM Academy resulting in increased enrollments and bringing these schools to a well-utilized school status.

#### Assurance 1: Reassignment of Students

Students from Just Elementary have been reassigned to Tampa Bay Boulevard Elementary and BT Washington Elementary schools for the 2023-24 school year. In addition to the reassignment families have been given the choice to attend one of three district magnet schools, Dunbar Elementary, Tampa Heights Elementary and Lockhart Elementary. All five schools meet the state requirements of a higher-performing school with a "C" or higher school grade.

Reassigned students and staff will receive additional supports designed to enhance learning gains and proficiency in ELA (English Language Arts), Math, & Science at their new schools to include:

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- Students will be provided with 5 school options, including magnet school options and transportation services for each school.
- School support services staff will provide mental health support to include; Social Worker, Psychologist and Guidance Counselor.
- Assigned a regional superintendent with a smaller network allowing for weekly support visits to include a team of district content coaches to support standards and curriculum implementation.
- District initiated incentive bonus at Transformation Network Schools to recruit and retain talented effective and highly effective teachers.
- Monitor and measure alignment to content standards within lesson planning, implementation, practice, and assessments. Dedicated time for teacher collaboration and planning will be adhered to weekly. Transformation Network coaches will support internalization for every unit and support content training as necessary.
- Focus on re-establishing school-wide and classroom norms with staff. This includes implementation of PBIS across the system.
- Strategic actions include extended learning programs, common planning protocols, and targeted small group instruction for tier 2 and 3 students.
- Use iReady and MTSS course performance to compare diagnostic measures and district baseline assessments with the beginning, middle, and end-of-year assessments. Data analysis reviews will be conducted at the teacher and student levels each diagnostic.
- Assigned a school-based Reading Coach, Science Coach, and Math Coach (to be determined) to provide job-embedded support to teachers and students.
- Transformation Network content coaches will work weekly with teacher teams to ensure the fidelity of standards instruction and alignment to tasks.
- The leadership team will aggressively monitor the implementation and follow through of subject area professional development tied to instructional implications. Dedicated time has been allocated on Early Release days to address areas of need based on trend data from observations.
- Community partnerships will assist with incentivizing core curriculum growth and gains content outcomes to increase and sustain student achievement.

### **Assurance 1: Student Assignments to Instructional Personnel**

The Hillsborough County Public School (HCPS) Human Resource Department and the Information Technologies (IT) Department have developed a tracking system to track each student's instructional personnel assignment to guarantee that students are not placed with instructional personnel rated as “Unsatisfactory or Needs Improvement” based on state VAM ratings.

### **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, the type of intervention and instruction provided to students to address deficiencies (if applicable), as well as the record of all instructional personnel assigned to the students

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(three-year aggregated state VAM rating, if applicable, and district evaluation rating). The district shall provide quarterly reports to the RED.

### **Description of how the district will address Assurance 2: Monitoring Reassigned Students**

#### **Assurance 2: Monitoring Reassigned Students**

The HCPS IT department has developed a coding script to monitor all reassigned students for each of the areas listed in the assurance language. This data will be reported quarterly to the RED as required.

### **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 School Improvement (SI) schools within the district.

The district shall ensure that administrators from a school closed through selection of this turnaround option are not reassigned to other SI schools within the district.

### **Description of how the district will address Assurance 3: Reassignment of Unsatisfactory Instructional Personnel and Administrators.**

#### **Assurance 3: Reassignment of Instructional Personnel**

All 2022-23 instructional personnel from Just Elementary School have been reassigned to other non-SI schools for the 2023-24 school year. No teachers with a VAM rating of “Unsatisfactory or Needs Improvement” were assigned to other School Improvement schools.

#### **Assurance 3: Reassignment of Administrative Personnel**

Just Elementary school had two administrators during the 2022-23 school year, one principal and one assistant principal. The assistant principal has already been reassigned to a non-School Improvement school for the 2023-24 school. The principal has not been reassigned as of the writing of this document, but they will not be reassigned to a School Improvement school.

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**Acknowledgement**

Check the box that applies to the district selection of RC.

- For Cycle 1, the district acknowledges that the plan is due to the Department by October 1.
- For Cycle 2-4, the district acknowledges that the plan is due to the Department by January 31.

<b>Name and title of person responsible for completing and submission of the TOP-2</b>
Shaylia McRae, Chief Transformation Network
<b>Contact information: email, phone number</b>
<a href="mailto:Shaylia.McRae@hcps.net">Shaylia.McRae@hcps.net</a> 819-272-4876
<b>Date submitted to the Bureau of School Improvement</b>
May 24, 2023
<b>Superintendent Signature (or authorized representative)</b>
<i>Shaylia McRae</i>