

Assistance Plus:
Commitments **Made**, Commitments **Met**

Status Report to the
Florida Board of Education
October 24, 2002

Assistance Plus is:

- **Outreach to Lowest Performing Schools**
 - 64 schools with performance grade of “F”- “F1”
 - 10 of 64 have “F” for the second time - “F2”
- **Resources**
 - Reading assistance
 - Human assistance
 - Fiscal assistance

“F1” means **F**irst - “F2” means **F**irst and **F**ast

ASSISTANCE *plus* TIMELINE

June 12, 2002	June 13, 2002	June 14, 2002 to July 10, 2002	July 11 - 13, 2002 Assistance Plus Summit	From Summit →	August 13, 2002 Cabinet Meeting	August 14, 2002 →
<p>State Board of Education (SBE) agenda includes discussion and approval of a process for Department of Education (DOE) staff to work with and help F schools to develop new plans as required by Section 229.053, Florida Statute.</p> <p>100% School Grades Announced ✓</p>	<p>DOE and OSIE staff members contact directly with F school principals to clarify process and reinforce importance of upcoming summit opportunity.</p> <p>Return to school districts their statutory responsibility to notify parents of choice options ✓</p>	<p>OSIE initial analysis and report on F schools strengths and weaknesses provided to the schools and Commissioner of Education.</p> <p>OSIE team conduct site visits to schools and districts to estimate analyzing data and pinpointing critical needs. ✓</p> <p>F schools identified require 30-day reports, including district assistance and intervention plans drafts, due to Commissioner of Education on July 12, 2002.</p>	<p>Hold "Assistance Plus Summit" for all F school School Advisory Councils (SACs), principals, superintendents, and Assistance Plus Profile teams around required components of School Improvement Plan (SIP). ✓</p> <p>Introduce standardized SIP, district survey and needs assessment forms and protocols. ✓</p> <p>Initiate required benchmarking of F schools with higher-performing schools.</p>	<p>OSIE issued fax support letters with F schools to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build a generic SIP for local and SBE review and approval; - Build customized Assistance Plus Teams for each school based on unique needs and school improvement focus. <p>✓</p>	<p>SBE review and takes appropriate action on new district and school plans, including membership of Assistance Plus Teams. ✓</p>	<p>OSIE staff begins bi-weekly conference calls with principals and SAC chairmen. ✓</p> <p>SBE receives and takes action on required monthly progress reports from DOE, districts, and F schools and results of bi-weekly conference calls. ✓</p> <p>Intensive and stance process re-focuses on F schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance Plus Teams formed for each school district with F and D schools; - Quarterly reports to SBE for F schools; - Quarterly conference call with SAC chairs in F schools.

NOTES:

- F indicates any school receiving a performance grade of "F" for 2001/2002.
- F¹ indicates a school receiving a performance grade of "F" for the first time in a four year period.
- F² indicates a school receiving a performance grade of "F" for the second time in a four year period.

Key to Acronyms:

- DOE - Department of Education
- OSIE - Office of School Improvement
- SAC - School Advisory Council
- SBE - State Board of Education
- SIP - School Improvement Plan

Outreach to 64 Lowest Performing Schools

- ✓ Twice monthly conference calls with Superintendents
- ✓ Assistance Plus Summit July 11-13
- ✓ Twice monthly conference calls with F² schools
- ✓ School Matches
- ✓ OSI School visits through October 18: **99**
 - ✓ School contacts: **323**
 - ✓ District or Region Contacts: **284**
- ✓ Over \$11 million new or redirected to assistance

Resources -- Reading Assistance

- **Reading First**
- **Reading Coaches**
- **Diagnostic assessments**



Resources -- Reading Assistance

- Dillard High School - Broward - established a separate reading department with 2 reading coaches
- Florida State University Center for Reading Research assists Wesson Elementary - Leon - testing, monitoring, and modeling instructional best practices
- Shanks High School - Gadsden - reading coach recently received a Horace Mann Excellent Teacher Award

Resources -- Human Assistance

- District Assistance
- Community Assistance
- 400+ Volunteers and School Matches
- DOE Regional Facilitators
- Community College Assistance
- State University Assistance



Resources -- Human Assistance

- Miami-Dade District - multi-school workshop on “Effective Reading Practices”
- Jefferson High School - Jefferson - over 100 parents attended first Open House
- Duval County - 50 parents and alumni formed groups to assist secondary schools
- Community College specialists are serving on Assistance Plus Teams
- Mollie Ray Elementary - Orange - Project Link: Saturday School literacy tutors from UCF for students and parents

Resources -- Fiscal Assistance

- Reading Coaches -- \$4 million
- Climate Surveys and Tools -- \$45,000
- Assistance Plus Specialists -- \$100,000+
- Redirected Title I School Improvement Funds -- \$7.3 million
- 21st Century Grants -- \$14 million
- Other Discretionary Grants --
 over \$6 million potentially
*Over \$25 million statewide --
 and counting!*



Resources -- Fiscal Assistance

- Climate surveys in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole--some done orally in community meeting-type settings
- Travel Reimbursements for Specialists through DOE when requested
- School Improvement and 21st Century grants just now out
- Other discretionary grants such as: Governor's Mentoring Initiative, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.

NEXT STEPS?

WHATEVER IT TAKES . . .

- On site visits
- Continuous communications
- Mini-summit in January ; “Gauging Progress”



ALL SCHOOLS “A” SCHOOLS



GENERATIONS ARE
COUNTING ON US!