

Chapter 2-Plans, Plans and More Plans

The Illinois State Board of Education is required by federal law to mandate many of the 'Plans' that are required of your district. As of July 1, 2013 and in an effort to have one continuous improvement plan, ISBE has migrated the 'Plan' requirement from the E-Plan system to the Rising Star platform which can be found on the Illinois Interactive Report Card site at <http://illinoisreportcard.com/>. This process streamlines and provides an interactive site where teams can work on plans at any time and store them on a secure server. Report Card data is uploaded into Rising Star annually.

Per the ESEA waiver, several plans are no longer required. They are listed here for historical purposes and archived on the district's Dashboard in Rising Star. At this time, districts and schools in Illinois are still required to write, review, and revise the Title I District Plan and Title I Schoolwide Plan on a regular basis.

1. Title I District Plan

- a. This Plan is an overview of
 - the needs identified within the district that will be addressed through the provision of supplemental programming funded through Title I, and
 - how the supplemental programming will be developed and implemented.
- b. Submission of a Title I District Plan is required by NCLB, *Section 1112, et.seq.*
- c. **All districts requesting Title I federal funding must have an approved Title I District Plan on file in Rising Star which can be found at <http://illinoisreportcard.com/>. Select the 'MyIIRC' link in the upper right corner of the report card screen.**
- d. The Title I District Plan should reflect the priorities included in the NCLB Consolidated Application grant; (i.e., if the Title I District plan focuses on reading or math instruction then the NCLB consolidated application should have items budgeted for reading or math instruction).
- e. Title I funds may not be released to the local district until the Title I District Plan is on file and verified as being complete by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- f. Guidelines for development of the District Title I Plan are available on the Innovation and Improvement website available at <http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/title1.htm>.
- g. Plans must be developed in consultation with teachers, principals, administrators, and parents of Title I students. It is recommended that a team be identified to write the Title I Plan.

NOTE: Remember to document this consultation with an agenda for the meeting and a sign-in sheet. Minutes or some other form of post-meeting documentation on what was decided would be adequate proof indicators that will be helpful.

- h. The district must review and update the District Title I Plan on a periodic basis. It is recommended that this be done annually to ensure continued correlation between the Title I Plan and the Title I grant application. This is especially important this year due to

required changes with the No Child Left Behind Waiver.

- i. The Response to Intervention Plan (also known as RtI) is incorporated into the District Improvement Plan.
 - Response to Intervention is defined as “The practice of providing high-quality instruction/intervention matched to student needs and using learning rate over time and level of performance to make important educational decisions.”
 - This Response to Intervention Plan is not specific to Title I but is a process required by the State of Illinois for all schools to ensure that all students learn to their fullest potential.
 - Since this is a requirement of all schools by the State of Illinois, Title I funds may not be used to supplant any state-mandated RtI screenings, assessments, or programming. *This is an important distinction unique to Illinois due to State rules that made RtI a mandate for all schools.* Use of Title I funds for RtI would be supplanting and would place the district in jeopardy of loss of federal funds.
 - However, it is important to note that Title I programming, both schoolwide and targeted assistance, is an important part of the interventions that may be offered within the scope of the comprehensive educational program using differentiated instructional strategies.

2. Title I Schoolwide Plans

- a. NCLB authorizes two distinct program structures under Title I, Part A: **Targeted Assistance School Programs** and **Schoolwide Programs**.
- b. Targeted Assistance School programs: funds may only be used to provide services to specific students who have been identified as failing or most at risk of failing, thereby having the greatest need for special assistance. Services are based on ACADEMIC NEED not POVERTY.
- c. Schoolwide program: Funds may be used to implement comprehensive strategies for improving the educational program of the whole school, providing services to any student – but the school must first meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - Have a poverty rate of 40% or higher
 - Have taken a year of planning (suggested but not required) to transition from Targeted Assistance to Schoolwide
 - Have a written plan which incorporates the ten components required by the federal regulations (34 CFR 200.28)
 - Local School Board Approval of the Title I Schoolwide Plan
- d. Resources are available on the Innovation and Improvement website to assist with the writing of these plans at <http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/title1.htm>.
- e. See also the schoolwide and targeted assistance cross-walk, At-A-Glance Components of Targeted Assistance School Programs and the At-A-Glance Components of Schoolwide Programs within the Appendices.

3. District Improvement Plan (ARCHIVED)

- a. Submission of a District Improvement Plan (DIP) is currently NOT required by federal and state regulations for districts that are in academic status, however we encourage districts to continue the DIP process.

- b. The plan must cover two fiscal years and must be revised every two years while the district remains in status. NOTE: It is recommended that the DIP be reviewed annually – especially since the higher AYP benchmark creates new challenges for the schools each year.
- c. Resources to support the process of reviewing data and writing the District Improvement Plan are available through links to the Innovation and Improvement website available at <http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/district.htm>
- d. The District Improvement Plan can be submitted via the Rising Star platform found on the IIRC website, available at <http://illinoisreportcard.com/>. Click on the ‘MyIIRC’ link at the top of the page.
- e. The objectives and activities of the district’s *Response to Intervention Plan* must be incorporated into the District Improvement Plan.
- f. Title I parents must be included on the committee that develops this plan.

4. School Improvement Plan (ARCHIVED)

- a. Submission of a School Improvement Plan (SIP) is currently NOT required by federal and state regulations for schools that are in academic status.
- b. The plan must cover two fiscal years (e.g. FY 2015 to FY 2017) and should be revised every two years while the school remains in status.
- c. Resources to support the process of reviewing data and writing the School Improvement Plan are available through links to the Innovation and Improvement website available at <http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/school.htm>.
- d. The School Improvement Plan can be submitted via the Rising Star platform found on the IIRC website.
- e. The plan must:
 - Specify the responsibilities of the school, the district, and the state serving the school.
 - Incorporate scientifically-based research strategies that will strengthen instruction in the core academic areas.
 - Adopt practices most likely to ensure that all student groups in the school will meet state standards.
 - Establish measurable achievement goals.
 - Ensure that 10% of the district’s Title I allocation will be used for professional development. (not currently required due to waiver since there are no district’s in status)
 - Provide information on how the parents will be engaged in effective parental involvement.
 - As appropriate, incorporate out-of-school time for additional learning opportunities.
 - Establish a peer review process for the plan. [NCLB, Sec. 1116(B)(8)(v)]
- f. Title I parents must be included on the committee that develops this plan.

5. Technology Plan (ARCHIVED)

- a. As part of the E-rate Modernization Order released on July 23, 2014, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) determined that an approved technology plan is no longer needed for E-rate funding.
- b. Since no federal or state programs require an approved technology plan, the Illinois State Board of Education has determined that it will release schools from the technology plan mandate. To that end, ISBE will no longer review or approve technology plans on a yearly basis.
- c. The technology plan template will remain a part of the Illinois Interactive Report Card site. Districts will be able retrieve previous plans or write a new plan using that site for the remainder of this school year (through June 30, 2015). Archived plans can be found on the district's Dashboard in Rising Star. If a district needs a plan reviewed for approval for federal or state grant purposes, staff may contact Jamey Baiter at jbaiter@isbe.net.

6. Restructuring Plan (ARCHIVED)

- a. Districts are required to develop restructuring plans on behalf of their schools in restructuring planning status. This is true for schools in status under federal or state requirements.
- b. All plans are submitted via the Interactive Illinois Report Card (IIRC) at <http://illinoisreportcard.com/> (Click on MyIIRC). Archived plans can be found on the district's dashboard in Rising Starr.
- c. Resources to support the process of reviewing data and writing the Restructuring Plan are available through links to the Innovation and Improvement website available at <http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/restructuring.htm>.
- d. Districts must identify which of the following Restructuring Options will be initiated with an affected school that is in restructuring planning or restructuring status. Each school restructuring plan must indicate that the district is initiating one or more of the following actions in the affected school:
 - Reopening the school as a public charter school, consistent with Article 27A of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/ 27A-5];
 - Replacing all or most of the school staff, which may include the principal, who are relevant to the school's inability to make AYP;
 - Entering into a contract with an entity, such as a private management company, with a demonstrated record of effectiveness, to operate the school as a public school;
 - Turn the "operation of the school over to the State educational agency, if permitted under State law and agreed to by the State"; or
 - Engage in another form of major restructuring that makes fundamental reforms, "such as significant changes in the school's staffing and governance, to improve student academic achievement in the school and that has substantial promise of enabling the school to make adequate yearly progress."

NOTE: Non-regulatory guidance from the U.S. Department of Education in 2006 further defines this fifth "other" option to include reforms such as:

- a.** Changing the governance structure of the school either to diminish school-based management and decision-making or to increase control, monitoring, and oversight by the LEA;
- b.** Closing the school and reopening it as a focus or theme school with new staff or staff skilled in the focus area;
- c.** Reconstituting the school into smaller autonomous learning communities;
- d.** Dissolving the school and assigning students to other schools in the district;
- e.** Pairing the school in restructuring with a higher performing school; or
- f.** Expanding or narrowing the grades served.

For more information on the School or District Improvement Plans, District Corrective Action Plans, or Restructuring Plans, go to:

http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/improvement_process.htm.