What to do when you’ve been identified as in Federal Status?

Mid June/July - AYP results are sent out via IWAS. This serves as the official notification of status. On the right of the schools/districts AYP report is a box that will contain your federal status, if any.

For SCHOOLS

CHOICE
14 days before the start of school - choice letters must be sent out to ALL parents of students in schools in federal status. These letters must be approved by ISBE prior to sending so plan accordingly. (see: http://www.isbe.net/grants/pdf/choice-guidance-2012.doc)

SES
Late August - email to providers approved for the state and your local area. Make sure to do delivery receipt so you can prove you reached out. Ask folks to let you know if they are interested in serving your kids. Give them a deadline to respond. (see: http://www.isbe.net/ses/html/service_providers.htm)
Early September - send out letter to parents of low-income students notifying them of SES services, along with the provider descriptions and sign-up forms. These materials must be approved by ISBE so plan accordingly. (see: http://www.isbe.net/ses/pdf/ses-guidance-2012.doc)
Next steps for SES (see: http://www.isbe.net/ses/word/ses-implementation-timeline.doc)

NOTE: 20% of the district’s Title I allocation must be obligated for Choice/SES purposes. This is done thru the NCLB Consolidated Application. This obligation may be met thru other funds, but must be noted in the application.

CORRECTIVE ACTION
In addition to Choice and SES, the district must take at least one of the following Corrective Actions:

- Institute a new curriculum grounded in scientifically-based research and provide, for all staff relevant to the school’s corrective action status, appropriate, scientifically research-based professional development based on scientifically-based research that is likely to improve the academic achievement of low-performing students;
- Extend the length of the school year or school day;
- Replace the school staff who are deemed relevant to the school not making adequate progress;
- Significantly decrease management authority at the school;
- Restructure the internal organization of the school; or
- Appoint one or more outside experts to advise the school with regard to (1) how to revise and strengthen the improvement plan it created while in school improvement status; and (2) how to address the specific issues underlying the school’s continued inability to make AYP. §1116(b)(7)(C); §200.42

RESTRUCTURING
Under federal and state law, each school restructuring plan developed by the district must indicate the district is planning to undertake one or more of the following actions in the affected school.

1. Charter School: Reopen the school as a public charter school, consistent with Article 27A of the School Code.
2. Staffing: Replace all or most of the school staff, which may include the principal, who are relevant to the school's inability to make adequate yearly progress;

3. Contracting: Enter 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;

4. SEA: Turn the operation of the school over to the SEA if this action is permitted under State law and the State agrees; or

5. Other Major Restructuring: Implement any other restructuring of the school's governance that makes fundamental reform in:
   i. Governance and management; and/or
   ii. Financing and material resources; and/or
   iii. staffing

For DISTRICTS
Federal Status includes (1) District Improvement 1, (2) District Improvement 2, and (3) Corrective Action. When a district is in any level of federal status they must set aside 10% of their Title I allocation for professional development. This is done thru the NCLB Consolidated Application.

IMPROVEMENT PLANS
1. DISTRICTS and SCHOOLS, in federal status, are required to use the Rising Star Continuous Improvement Planning Process. Exact dates for all submissions are announced annually and posted on Rising Star on IIRC on the district and school dashboards, Title 1, under Planning Tools and Resources (see: http://iirc.niu.edu/IntegratedEPlans/MyIIRC/eplansDashboard)

2. Rising Star District teams will actively and concurrently assess all, then plan for and monitor resulting high index score indicators labeled SmartStart and SmartPlan by the below dates.
   - SmartStart Indicators (includes 1 SmartData)–mid to late September
   - SmartPlan Indicators (includes 3 SmartData)–mid to late October

3. The ELL Title III AMAO template is due in Late October.

4. Rising Star School teams will actively and concurrently assess all, then plan for and monitor resulting high index score indicators labeled SmartStart and SmartPlan by the below dates.
   - SmartStart Indicators (includes 3 SmartData)–mid-October
   - SmartPlan Indicators (includes 1 SmartData)–mid-December

5. Districts and Schools in federal status must secure and submit local board approval for improvement plans on an annual basis which occurs in early November.

6. The Corrective Action Schools report must be completed and submitted in early November.

7. District Rising Star teams will, for schools that have now advanced to restructuring status based on the previous years data, submit a Restructuring Plan on Rising Star using the SmartRestructuring indicators by mid-January (exact date will be announced). District teams that previously filed a Restructuring Plan for a school in restructuring status using the SmartRestructuring indicators in January of the previous year, will continue to revisit, plan for and monitor the SmartRestructuring Indicators on Rising Star for that school.

8. Further, to facilitate Rising Star continuous improvement momentum, it is recommended that district and school teams set two benchmarking dates for their personalized indicator work; Date 1 between January and March, and Date 2 between March and the end of their school year.

9. The Special Education NA2 Requirement and Focused Monitoring Corrective Actions Report is due annually in mid to late May.

ISBE approved professional development to support continuous improvement planners is available to SSoS eligible districts through the regional delivery system. ISBE sponsored professional development to support continuous improvement planners is available to non-SSoS eligible districts through a newly-formed trainer cadre at state-hosted northern and south central event venues throughout the academic year as well as during the summer recess.

QUESTIONS: Contact 217-524-4832. (August, 2013)