



Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

Illinois High Priority Schools

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December 18, 2009



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Illinois High Priority Schools

- All states were required to publish various categories of their 5% lowest-performing schools as a condition of receiving Phase II State Fiscal Stabilization Funds.
- In Illinois, we are designating these 181 schools from 74 districts as “High Priority Schools”.



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In response to this federal requirement, Illinois developed three lists:

1. Title I schools in federal improvement status. Schools identified had to meet one of two criteria (40 schools):

- Being in the lowest-achieving 5% of these schools. Achievement was based on the average performance of the “All” group on the state assessments over the last three years.* (36 schools)
- Having a graduation rate below 60% for the last three years.

* Average performance = the number of students who met/exceeded standards across all state tests for reading and math on the 2007, 2008, and 2009 state assessment divided by the total number of students with test scores across all state tests for reading and math.



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2. Title I eligible secondary schools not receiving Title I funding. Schools identified had to meet one of two criteria (15 schools):

- Being in the lowest-achieving 5% of these schools. Achievement was based on the average performance of the “All” group on the state assessments over the last three years.*
- Having a graduation rate below 60% for the last three years.

* Average performance = the number of students who met/exceeded standards across all state tests for reading and math on the 2007, 2008, and 2009 state assessment divided by the total number of students with test scores across all state tests for reading and math.



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3. All schools in Illinois. Schools identified here were in the lowest-achieving 5% of all schools. Achievement was based on the average performance of the “All” group on the state assessments over the last three years. (181 schools)

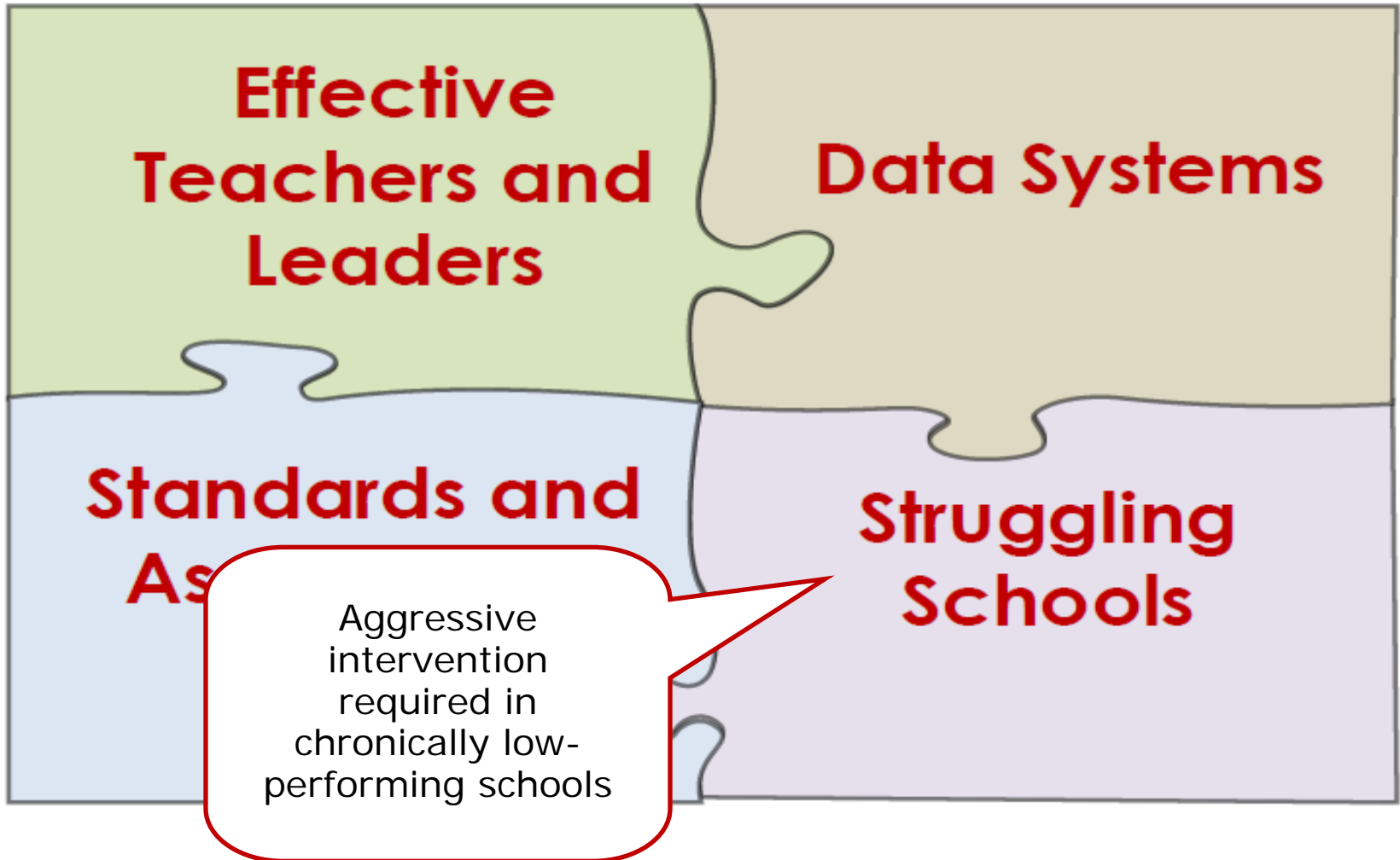
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RTTT Guidelines

“To turn around the lowest-performing schools, states and districts must be ready to institute far-reaching reforms, from replacing staff and leadership to changing the school culture.”

Arne Duncan



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RTTT Criteria

- The state must have the authority to intervene directly with persistently low-performing schools
- The state must identify the 5 percent of schools or five schools (whichever is larger) that are the lowest achieving and support them by:
 - Putting in place new leadership, new staff, new governance and improved instructional programs
 - Converting them to charter schools or contracting with education management organizations
 - Closing the school
 - Implementing a school transformation model



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RTTT Criteria

- Employ a school transformation model that includes:
 - Hiring a new principal
 - Measuring teacher and principal effectiveness
 - Rewarding effective teachers and principals
 - Improving recruitment, retention and professional development
 - Implementing comprehensive instructional reform
 - Extending learning time and community-oriented supports



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Struggling Schools *(High Priority Schools)*

State Commitment

- Support the Illinois Partnership Zone
- Pre-qualify lead and supporting partners
- Coordinate the statewide Illinois Partnership Zone Council
- Establish systems to pursue interventions in priority schools that do not demonstrate a willingness to voluntarily undertake dramatic action to improve student achievement
- Pursue legislation to align state and federal accountability systems



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Struggling Schools *(High Priority Schools)*

District Commitment

- **May be required to undertake a state funded reorganization study**
- **Undertake one of four intervention models identified by the U.S. Department of Education in all priority schools:**
 - **Turnaround Model**
 - **Restart Model**
 - **School Closure**
 - **Transformation**



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Questions?

RT3@isbe.net

Or call John Perkins at:

217-782-2223