

Illinois e-Plans

Restructuring Plan Guide

Overview

Under NCLB (*USDE, LEA and School Improvement: Non-Regulatory Guidance, rev. July 21, 2006*) and state law, when a school is in restructuring status or at academic watch 2 status (AW2), the district must take intensive and far-reaching interventions to revamp completely the operation and governance of that school. Restructuring means a major reorganization of a school's governance structure arrangement by a district that:

- Makes fundamental reforms, such as significant changes in the school's staffing and governance, to improve student academic achievement in the school;
- Has substantial promise to improve student academic achievement and enable the school to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) as defined by the State's accountability system; and
- Is consistent with State law.

For example, typical restructuring plans in Illinois include elements such as extending the school day or year, reorganizing instructional delivery and support for students into smaller learning communities, and/or building capacity of staff as professional learning communities. Plans must be customized to meet the needs of the individual school and district.

Submission of Restructuring Plans

Restructuring plans must be submitted to ISBE within six months of the school's formal notification of AYP status delivered via the IWAS system. ISBE staff will review and monitor restructuring plans in documented consultation with district staff about the appropriateness of the plan for the school.

In selecting an option for school restructuring, district and school planners should consider what has occurred in a school that has brought it to restructuring.

The restructuring plan should take into account the actions initiated in prior years. The actions required under the restructuring plan need to be deeper, broader, or more targeted to meet identified needs.

Each school restructuring plan shall be reviewed and monitored by ISBE to determine whether the plan demonstrates that:

1. The proposed changes are based on data, documented needs and characteristics of the students served, and/or scientifically based practices that are appropriate in light of the school's inability to make AYP; and
2. The proposed changes are sufficient in extent or scope to promote increased achievement for all the students in the school and have substantial promise of enabling the school to make AYP.

The Restructuring Plan Template at <http://iirc.niu.edu/> must be used by Illinois districts to create a restructuring plan for schools not making adequate yearly progress (AYP) for a fifth annual calculation as required by Public Law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 1101 et seq., (here referred to as "NCLB") and Section 2-3.25d of the School Code, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d.

The template and this accompanying guide are to be used together to ensure that users include all requirements of federal and state law for restructuring plans. "Monitoring Prompts" that appear in italics in this guide are questions ISBE readers will use in monitoring this plan. Plan developers will find these questions and the Restructuring Plan Monitoring Prompt useful in plan development. The Restructuring

Plan Guide and the Restructuring Monitoring Prompts are available on the ISBE website. Also, see the Road Map page after accessing the e-Plan at <http://iirc.niu.edu/>.

The Restructuring Plan template includes:

- I. Data and Analysis (automatically populated)
- II. Plan Activities
- III. Board Action

Districts must also submit revised school improvement plans via Illinois e-Plans (see http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/sip_guide.pdf) unless the school has an approved school improvement plan for the current year. The district, however, may choose to revise and submit the school improvement plan in light of school restructuring.

A school with an expired school improvement plan should continue revising its plan on a two-year cycle as long as the school remains in status. School improvement plans should align with restructuring plans.

Note: No new or revised plans based on 2009 data are to be submitted in the 2008 IIRC templates: such plans will be out of compliance. To be in compliance, plans for 2009 must be in the 2009 IIRC templates.

Key Resources	Web Addresses
Restructuring Plan Guide	http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/restructuring_template.pdf
Restructuring Monitoring Prompt	http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/restructuring_prompt.pdf
Restructuring Plan Template	http://iirc.niu.edu (under "district")
NCLB Act	http://www.ed.gov/policy/reg.esea02/index.html
Illinois School Code	http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs.asp
RESPRO Contact Information	http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/respro_contacts.pdf

Technical Assistance

For assistance in developing, submitting, or implementing a restructuring plan, please see your [Regional System of Support Provider \(RESPRO\)](#) or call Grants and Programs, at 217/524-4832. The following resources will assist in restructuring planning:

- USDE LEA and School Improvement Non-Regulatory Guidance, Rev. July 21, 2006, at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/schoolimprovementguid.pdf>.
- Choosing an Option School Restructuring Under No Child Left Behind: What Works When? A Guide for Education Leaders (100 pages) at <http://www.centerforcsri.org/files/RestructuringGuide.pdf>.
- Handbook on Restructuring and Substantial School Improvement, 2008, Center on Innovation & Improvement at <http://www.centerii.org/handbook/>.
- Guide for Selecting Alternative Governance Look Before You Leap: Responding Effectively to PI Year 4 Requirements contact Debbie Lee, Los Angeles County Office of Education Lee_Debbie@lacoedu.edu.

Instructions for Completing the Restructuring Plan

District and School Information:

Available information about the district and school will populate this section in the Restructuring e-Plan Template at the IIRC website (<http://iirc.niu.edu/>); district staff may complete or correct information.

Section I. Data and Analysis

AYP Information from the School Report Card, Assessment Data, Basic School Information, and Educator data will populate screens for this section.

Section II. Plan Activities

Part A. Restructuring Options

Identify which option(s) the district will initiate with an affected school that does not make AYP for a sixth calculation. Each school restructuring plan must indicate that the district is initiating one or more of the following actions in the affected school:

1. reopening the school as a public charter school, consistent with Article 27A of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/ 27A-5];
2. replacing all or most of the school staff, which may include the principal, who are relevant to the school's inability to make AYP;
3. 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;
4. implementing any other major 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.

Section II. Plan Activities

Part B. Plan Description

Describe the plan for restructuring the school discussing the rationale for option(s) selected, improvement actions prior to restructuring, progress in achieving AYP, timeline, measures for success and monitoring process.

Section III. Board Action

LOCAL BOARD APPROVAL: Identify the approval date of the local board.

By submitting the plan on behalf of the district, the district superintendent certifies to ISBE that all the information provided in the plan is true and correct and that the restructuring plan has been duly approved by the local board. By clicking "Submit," the plan shall be deemed to be executed by the superintendent on behalf of the district.

ISBE MONITORING

Consultation with district staff may include the following topics. Inclusion of these topics in the restructuring plan description is required.

Monitoring Prompts:

- Does the plan describe an option for restructuring allowed in the law?
- Does the district make the case that the option selected is appropriate for the school?
- Does the plan explain corrective actions (Title I funded schools) or other district improvement strategies implemented at the school that will remain in place or be a part of the restructuring plan?
- Do state assessment data indicate that the school is showing progress from corrective actions?
- Is the continuation of these actions warranted or reasonable?
- Does the plan provide a timeline for implementing the restructuring option and the corrective actions that precede it?
- Does the plan identify the measures for success associated with the district's actions and restructuring strategy?
- What benchmarks of success are planned to monitor progress of this plan and who is responsible for overseeing the implementation and monitoring of this plan?