

# 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 federal restructuring status or at state level 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 via the IIRC e-plan system 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 Prompt are available on the ISBE website. Restructuring templates for individual schools are located within the District Plan templates on the IIRC e-Plan system 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 the Illinois e-Plans system. (See **the Illinois Interactive Report Card site** at <http://iirc.niu.edu/> 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: To be in compliance, plans for 2010 must be in the 2010 IIRC templates. No new or revised plans based on 2010 data are to be submitted in the 2009 IIRC templates: such plans will be out of compliance.**

Key Resources	Web Addresses
Restructuring Plan Guide	<a href="http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/restructuring_template.pdf">http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/restructuring_template.pdf</a>
Restructuring Monitoring Prompt	<a href="http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/restructuring_prompt.pdf">http://www.isbe.net/sos/pdf/restructuring_prompt.pdf</a>
Restructuring Plan Template	<a href="http://iirc.niu.edu">http://iirc.niu.edu</a> (under "district")
NCLB Act	<a href="http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html#sec1111">http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html#sec1111</a>
Illinois School Code: Section 1.85	<a href="http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023000010A00850R.html">http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/023/023000010A00850R.html</a>
Federal Guidance: LEA and School Improvement	<a href="http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/schoolimprovementguid.pdf">http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/schoolimprovementguid.pdf</a>
English Language Learners	<a href="http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/titleIII.htm">http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/titleIII.htm</a>
Parent Involvement	<a href="http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/parent.htm">http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/parent.htm</a>
Special Education Profiles	<a href="http://webprod1.isbe.net/LEAProfile/SearchCriteria1.aspx">http://webprod1.isbe.net/LEAProfile/SearchCriteria1.aspx</a>
Title I–Targeted Assistance and Schoolwide Programs	<a href="http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/title1.htm">http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/title1.htm</a>

**Technical Assistance**

Technical assistance with the development, submission, and implementation of restructuring plans is available through the **Regional Offices of Education and the Intermediate Services Centers** <http://www.iarss.org/directory/state-map.html> or call the **Innovation and Improvement Division** at 217/524-4832.

**RESOURCES**

**Federal Guidance: LEA and School Improvement Non-Regulatory Guidance** (*Revised*) July 21, 2006.

Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

**Presentations to assist district/school personnel develop and refine improvement plans.**

- **Guidance for Restructuring – Broad Strokes**  
Webinar provides details regarding the district’s responsibilities in relation to restructuring, the options that are to be considered, and plan preparation.

- **Tips for Improvement Planning: Lessons Learned** (webinar)
- **Center on Innovation and Improvement**  
National center provides access to research-based resources on district and school improvement processes. **Restructuring and turnaround resources are accessible at <http://www.centerii.org/restructuring/>.**
- **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/>.
- **What Works Clearinghouse**  
U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Services that features educational resources demonstrating what works in education.
- **National High School Center**  
National center serves as the central source of information and expertise on high school improvement for the Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs).
- **Professional Development Activities – Statewide Listing**  
Links to professional development offered by the Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, ISBE, IASA, IPA, IASBO, and Illinois ASCD.
- **Illinois Principals Association/ISBE: School Showcase webinars**  
Illinois middle and high schools that made significant academic improvement in 2009-2010. Handouts and other materials are available to download with each school's recording.

## 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?