

Schools At-Risk Identification:

1. How were Schools At-Risk identified?

*The 2016-2017 Schools At-Risk (SAR) were identified based on receiving an accountability rating of “F” when the 2016 accountability data were released. **Note:** Schools currently identified as a Priority or Focus school with a 2016 accountability rating of “F” were not identified as SAR schools.*

2. What legislation facilitates the Schools At-Risk process?

Mississippi Codes 37-18-3 and 37-18-5 facilitates the Schools At-Risk process; however, in an effort to avoid duplication of services and in consideration of schools that are already designated as focus or priority schools, the MDE only identified “F” schools that were not currently identified as focus or priority.

Needs Assessment Process:

3. If a district has multiple SAR schools, will a Needs Assessment Interview be held for each school?

Yes, each SAR school within the district will participate in a needs assessment interview. Each SAR school should submit the requested artifacts in MCAPS, including the individual school presentation. Each SAR school will be assigned an interview time through the Office of School Improvement.

4. Who is required to participate in each school’s Needs Assessment Interview?

The superintendent and a school board member must be present for each school’s interview. The principal of the school and a teacher representative must be present for their respective school’s interview. A parent or community member may also participate as part of the interview team, at the discretion of the district.

5. Will districts be permitted to include additional personnel as part of their team?

Yes, additional staff will be permitted to attend the needs assessment interview; however, only 1-2 members are allowed to present. Teams may not exceed six (6) members. As noted in the presentation template all team members in attendance may be asked to respond to questions during the question and answer portion of the interview.

6. Will the Office of School Improvement provide training on MCAPS?

The Office of School Improvement will not provide training on the MCAPS; however, school and district staff may contact the Office of School Improvement for assistance with uploading their needs assessment artifacts. The November 14th webinar provided the steps district and school teams may use to successfully upload their artifacts. As emphasized in the SAR notification letter and during the webinar, schools and districts are encouraged to engage their Federal Programs Director with the MCAPS uploading process due to their familiarity with MCAPS.

Action Planning:

7. Will SAR schools be required to create an action plan?

*Yes, SAR schools will be required to create an action plan. The SAR action plan template will be provided to districts and schools after the needs assessment interviews have been completed. The SAR action plan will address five (5) components: **Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, Climate and Safety, and Assessment**. The SAR action plan addresses the district actions for each of these areas, as well as the school's actions for addressing each of these areas. SAR action plans must be signed by the local school board president, superintendent, and the school principal prior to being submitted to the Office of School Improvement. The deadline for SAR action plans will be provided when the action plan template is provided to schools.*

8. Will SAR schools be required to provide a monthly update to the Local School Board?

Yes, after submitting the SAR action plan to the MDE, SAR schools will be required to provide a monthly update to their local school board. These updates to the local school board should be reflected on the board's agenda and in the minutes. These items (i.e. board agenda and minutes) denoting the SAR school updates must be uploaded into MCAPS each month. The monthly updates will be monitored through the MCAPS and through school board meeting attendance by the MDE staff.

9. How long will the action plan be implemented?

As noted on the "What's Next" slide of the webinar's powerpoint presentation, the action plan will be implemented through June 2017.

Technical Supports:

10. Will technical assistance and support be provided to Schools At-Risk from the Mississippi Department of Education?

Yes, technical support will be provided to Schools At-Risk. Support will be provided through virtual and on-site coaching and professional development opportunities.