

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

March 14, 2023

SUBJECT:

Revision of the following policy and administrative rule:

Policy ADA School District Goals and Objectives, First Reading
Administrative Rule ADA-R School District Goals and Objectives

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Policy ADA School District Goals and Objectives, First Reading and Administrative Rule ADA-R School District Goals and Objectives provide guidance to “develop a five-year strategic plan and schools will develop five-year school renewal plans to align resources and initiatives that are focused on accountability and the improvement of student academic performance, data-driven decision making, and continuous improvement.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Administration recommends the approval of Policy ADA School District Goals and Objectives, First Reading and Administrative Rule ADA-R School District Goals and Objectives.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the following policy and administrative rule:

Policy ADA School District Goals and Objectives, First Reading
Administrative Rule ADA-R School District Goals and Objectives

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy ADA School District Goals and Objectives, First Reading
Administrative Rule ADA-R School District Goals and Objectives

PREPARED BY:

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SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Code **ADA** Issued **5/01 3/23**

~~Purpose: To establish the board's vision for school district goals and objectives and the basic structure for developing a district performance-based accountability system and comprehensive plans with annual updates.~~

~~Goals and objectives~~

- ~~• All students will meet challenging academic standards.~~
- ~~• All students will develop a solid foundation for learning.~~
- ~~• All students will prepare for post-secondary education and lifelong learning.~~

~~Accountability system~~

~~As required by the Education Accountability Act of 1998, the board will ensure the establishment of a district system of performance-based accountability and incorporate it into the district's strategic plan. Each school will indicate the accountability components in its improvement or renewal plan.~~

~~The accountability system must do the following:~~

- ~~• Complement and strengthen the district strategic plan.~~
- ~~• Include, but not be limited to, measures that stimulate quality teaching and learning practices, with targeted assistance to low-performing schools.~~
- ~~• Address state academic achievement standards and assessments and the alignment of local standards and assessments.~~
- ~~• Include an analysis of progress for students with academic plans.~~
- ~~• Include an analysis of the results of the PSAT or PLAN tests to assess and identify curriculum areas that need strengthening, to assess students' strengths and weaknesses to provide needed academic assistance, and to provide guidance to students and parents in planning for postsecondary experiences.~~
- ~~• Include school and district level analysis and evaluation of student academic achievement and academic improvement and other areas related to student achievement in need of improvement (e.g., attendance, discipline, dropout rates, parental involvement).~~

~~The district must involve parents, teachers and principals in the development, annual review and revision of the district accountability system.~~

~~The board must review and revise the accountability system annually.~~

~~The district will submit its district performance-based accountability system to the state department of education for approval in accordance with the law.~~

~~Comprehensive plan~~

~~The district will develop and implement five-year comprehensive plans by schools and by the district to meet the requirements of The Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance~~

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Act of 1993 (Act 135), Section 2 and Section 11. Act 135 establishes two main initiatives to be addressed in the comprehensive plans:

- focus on early childhood development and the prevention of academic difficulties
- an emphasis on flexibility so there is a tailoring of service to meet the needs of students experiencing academic difficulties

The school district and each school in the district must coordinate in developing a comprehensive five-year plan that will be updated annually to carry out the purposes of the law. The plans will do the following:

- Establish an early childhood initiative which integrates the planning and direction of the half-day program for four-year-olds, the parenting program, the early childhood assistance program, school practices in kindergarten through grade three, and any other federal, state or district program for preschool children in the district in order to better meet the needs of this student population.
- Develop an academic assistance initiative to support students with academic difficulties so they are able to progress academically and move through school with their peers.
- Provide staff training to prepare and train teachers and administrators in the teaching techniques and strategies needed to implement the school and district plan.
- Develop a parent involvement plan for each school.

The district will address the innovation initiative in its plan by encouraging research-based innovative approaches to improve student learning and accelerate student performance.

District and school plans will be derived from strategies found to be effective in education research. The plans must contain performance goals, interim performance goals and timelines for progress. Further, the district will develop methods of assessing the effectiveness of strategies to indicate whether strategies should be continued, modified or terminated.

The district will submit a copy of its five-year comprehensive plan to the state department of education for review in accordance with the law.

Adopted 5/22/01

Mission Statement

The mission of Aiken County Public Schools, the unifying agent of new horizons and extraordinary possibilities, is to ensure all students thrive as future-ready, globally mindful, and productive citizens through a responsive and inclusive school system distinguished by

- High quality and student-centered learning experiences
- Transformative stakeholder partnerships
- A culture of purpose, innovation, and excellence

The district will implement this vision by providing lifelong learning opportunities that will develop the potential of all individuals and thereby improve the quality of life for all citizens of the district.

District Strategic Plan and School Renewal Plans

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The district will develop a five-year strategic plan and schools will develop five-year school renewal plans to align resources and initiatives that are focused on accountability and the improvement of student academic performance, data-driven decision making, and continuous improvement.

Accountability system

The board will ensure the establishment of a district system of performance-based accountability and incorporate it into the district's strategic plan. Each school will indicate the accountability components in its renewal plan.

The board will review and revise the overall accountability system annually.

The district will involve key stakeholders, including administrators, teachers, support staff, parents/legal guardians, and community members in the development, annual review, and revision of the district accountability system.

Strategic plan and school renewal plan

The district will develop and implement a five-year strategic plan and school renewal plans. District and school plans will be based on strategies derived from scientifically based education research.

The district will submit copies of its five-year comprehensive plans and annual updates to the South Carolina Department of Education for review in accordance with the law.

Adopted 5/22/01 Revised 3/28/23

Legal References:

A. United States Code of Laws, as amended:

1. Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95, 129 Stat. 1802.

B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-18-1300 - District accountability system; development and review.
2. Section 59-18-1310 - Reports consolidated; submission dates.
3. Section 59-18-1500 - Review and revision of improvement plan.
4. Section 59-18-1510 - Assignment of external review committee; activities and recommendations.
5. Section 59-20-60 - Improvement councils.
6. Section 59-139-05, et seq. - Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act.

C. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-261 - District and school planning.

SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Code **ADA-R** Issued **5/013/23**

District and school comprehensive plans and accountability system

~~The district and each school in the district will prepare a district performance-based accountability system and five-year comprehensive plans with annual updates. These plans are required by the Education Accountability Act of 1998, Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135), the Education Finance Act of 1977 and state board of education Regulation 43-261. The accountability system will be coordinated with the school and district plans and will encompass all improvement initiatives. The school plan will be known as the school renewal plan; the district plan as the district strategic plan; and the accountability system as the district performance-based accountability system. The district and each school in the district will prepare a district performance-based accountability system and plans with annual updates. The school and district plans will be coordinated and will align improvement initiatives.~~

~~The board will approve the accountability system and the comprehensive school plans which will coordinate funding from local, state, federal and private sources. The board will approve the district strategic plan, school renewal plans, and annual updates which will coordinate funding from local, state, federal, and private sources and will be developed collaboratively by a broad-based group of stakeholders using a consensus process.~~

Each school improvement council will actively participate in the development of its school's plans.

The comprehensive plans will address the following initiatives.

- early childhood initiative (preschool - grade 3) which addresses a parenting/family literacy component; a plan for half-day child development programs; an academic assistance component for grades K-3; school practices in grades K-3; and other federal, state or district programs
- academic assistance initiative (grades 4 - 12)
- staff development initiative to provide ongoing long-range professional development ~~to prepare and train teachers and administrators in the techniques and strategies to implement the district strategic and school renewal plans~~ which meets national professional development standards and provides participants the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the district strategic and school renewal plans
- parent/legal guardian involvement initiative including goals, objectives and method of evaluation
- ~~innovative initiatives designed to improve student learning and acceleration, teaching methods and relationships between schools and social service agencies~~ an innovation initiative component designed to improve student learning and accelerate the performance of all students will be based on different categories; these categories may include defining new approaches as to what and how students learn, applying different teaching methods, redefining how schools operate, and creating appropriate relationships between schools and other social service agencies

During the planning process, the district and each school will address these specific accountability areas.

- ~~desired learner standards or expectations~~
- ~~needs assessment~~
- ~~performance goals and, if applicable, interim performance goals~~
- ~~timelines for progress~~
- ~~objectives and strategies to reach the goals which are measurable~~
- ~~evaluation of strategies~~
- ~~status of each strategy~~
- comprehensive needs assessment
- performance goals
- interim performance goals
- strategies and action plans
- evaluation of the strategies
- evidence of comprehensive consensus building
- assurances
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~~The plan will also include a needs assessment to identify target areas of discrepancy between the desired learner standards and the current status as indicated by available data. The district will~~

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~~develop performance goals and interim performance goals to address the major areas of discrepancy. The district will design strategies to meet the goals and incorporate certain components. The district will evaluate each strategy as to the level of effectiveness. The annual needs assessment must identify targeted areas of discrepancy between the desired performance levels and the current status as indicated by available data. The district will develop measurable performance goals and interim performance goals to address the major areas of discrepancy. The district will design strategies to meet the goals and incorporate certain components. The district will evaluate each strategy as to its level of effectiveness.~~

~~School improvement councils and report to the community~~

~~Refer to BDF and BDF-R, Advisory Committees, for changes according to Act 135 and the Education Accountability Act of 1998.~~

Report to the Community

Alternative plan

Schools that use the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) accreditation process may substitute the COGNIA/SACS CASI plan for the school renewal plan provided it includes the appropriate components.

~~Review of accountability and school and district plans~~ District and School Plans

~~The district planning team will submit the accountability system, comprehensive plans and annual updates to the local board of trustees for review and approval prior to or following peer review.~~

~~The district will follow the department of education schedule for submission of combined strategic plan/accountability system for year 2000.~~

~~The state department of education review panel will either approve the plan, provisionally approve the plan pending suggested modifications, or disapprove the plan.~~

~~The department will provide technical assistance to schools needing help in modifying aspects of the plan not meeting approval criteria. Plans developed by deregulated schools are exempt from the peer review process.~~

The district planning team will submit the district strategic plan, school renewal plans, and annual updates to the board for review and approval prior to or following peer review.

The district will follow the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) schedule for submission of combined strategic plan/school renewal plans.

The SCDE review panel will approve the plan, provisionally approve the plan pending suggested modifications, or disapprove the plan. The SCDE will provide technical assistance to schools needing help in modifying aspects of the plan not meeting approval criteria. Plans developed by deregulated schools are exempt from the peer review process.

Evaluation of program and strategies

Districts and schools will maintain financial records and collect sufficient program information to provide accountability for expenditures and results. This process applies particularly in the areas

of K-3 academic assistance, 4-12 academic assistance, parenting/family literacy, half-day child development programs, innovation and staff development as well as accountability elements.

District reports to the community

~~The district will develop an annual district programmatic report to the parents and public based on certain components.~~

~~The district will prepare an annual written report to account for funds expended in each pupil classification in the Education Finance Act.~~

Targeted technical assistance

~~The district will request technical assistance available to districts from the state department of education if the district does not meet established goals and timelines.~~

~~The department of education will offer technical support to any district requesting assistance in the development of its district performance-based accountability system.~~

Monitoring

~~The district will evaluate all plans on an annual basis as part of the yearly updating procedures. The new combined strategic plans/accountability system will be reviewed and approved by the department of education.~~

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Waivers

~~The board may request waivers to regulations that would impede the implementation of an approved plan. These waivers are available upon request of the board.~~

~~The department of education will provide guidelines outlining further information relating to the implementation of this regulation.~~

Waivers

The board may request a waiver to regulations that would impede the implementation of an approved plan in accordance with SCDE guidelines.

Issued 5/22/01 Revised 3/28/23