

From: Robinson, Gerard
Sent time: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 3:57:01 AM
To: patricia@floridapromise.org
Cc: Joanna@floridapromise.org; MaryLaura@excelined.org; Stewart, Pam; Cooper, Tanya; Potts, Adam
Subject: Re: 11-30-11 Differentiated Accountability Draft - FINAL

Hi patricia. Thanks for the suggestions. We will look into it.

From: Patricia Levesque (patricia@floridapromise.org) [mailto:patricia@floridapromise.org]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 12:57 PM
To: Robinson, Gerard
Cc: Stewart, Pam; Cooper, Tanya; Potts, Adam; Joanna Hassell (Joanna@floridapromise.org) <Joanna@floridapromise.org>; Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) <MaryLaura@excelined.org>
Subject: 11-30-11 Differentiated Accountability Draft - FINAL

Commissioner,

Thank you for letting us review the Department's DA draft bill.

I do want to point out one thing for the department's consideration in the draft. Should the bill also beef up some of the Commissioner/Department/State Board's authority in the turnaround models?

Specifically, in one of your first state board meetings, the board members asked you about how the department could ensure what happened in Miami-Dade does not happen again (where Miami-Dade decided to implement the charter school turnaround strategy but picked an unknown provider 4 weeks before the start of the school year.) In that meeting you pointed out that in other states, the State reviewed all the charter operators and selected the top ∞ providers that would be state-authorized to help a district with a failing school and that school districts would then pick off that list.

I think that is a very good process; however, you have no authority to do that in Florida. I think we need to add a section to this bill to give you/the department authority to set a state-approved list of charter operators or private providers so districts can't pick poor performers to implement turnaround. Also, you/State Board should have more authority to enforce a strict timeline for turnaround models.

In other words, even if you got authority to set a list of quality charter operators, it's not going to do them any good, if Miami-Dade picks from the state approved list two weeks before the start of the school year. No provider would succeed under that timeline. It would be good for you/state board to have authority to approve or set a timeline that districts had to meet when implementing their turnaround options. You could ensure that a county at least selects a provider 4 months prior to the start of the next school year and that the provider has some access to data/information/staffing, etc to ensure a successful handoff when they take over.

Please consider beefing up the draft bill to include this authority for you, DOE, state board.

Thank you,

Patricia

p.s. I had one question on the calculation of district's grades that maybe one of the staff could explain to me.