

ADULT EDUCATION

PROCESS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON STATE ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE

Statutory Requirements

The agreement between the Secretary and each state shall take into account---

- How the levels involved compare with the eligible agency adjusted levels of performance established for other eligible agencies, taking into account factors including the characteristics of participants when the participants entered the program, and the services or instruction to be provided, and
- The extent to which such levels involved promote continuous improvement in performance on the performance measures by such eligible agency and ensure optimal return on the investment of Federal funds.
- The Secretary and each eligible agency shall reach agreement on the levels of performance for the seventh year covered by the state plan.

DAEL Goals

1. Support continuous improvement.
2. Challenge states to establish target levels that set high expectations for local programs.
3. Move states performing in the lowest quartile of performance toward the national average.

Performance Agreement Ground Rules

1. Compare proposed performance levels for [2011-2012] with past performance for each of the measures.

Review performance trends for each measure (5 complete years and one partial year). Are the trends positive or negative, or variable? Can the trends be explained?

Review Data Quality Check Lists to determine overall validity and reliability of data (follow-up methodology, response rates, assessment, goal setting, timely reporting by locals, data checks, etc. The State assessment policy should be reviewed if available.

Is the State generating valid and reliable data?

1. Compare proposed performance levels to national median and range.
2. Identify and consider 'factors' used by each state to establish proposed levels, including reporting capacity.
3. Consider whether proposed performance levels support continuous improvement.
4. Inform states that the minimum acceptable level must equal or exceed actual reported performance (any deviation must be fully supported).

Additional considerations

1. Identify state initiatives, past or future, that might cause a change in performance, either negatively or positively (i.e., implementing content standards, changing assessments, a recent change or a planned change in follow-up methodologies, implementing new MIS, or targeted technical assistance and training to improve data collection).
2. Recent adoptions of state policy directives (legislative, governing board).
3. Special consideration might be given to the largest program(s) in the state, as they have the greatest impact on state performance.
4. Review attendance hour patterns/intensity of instruction/student demographics.
5. Conduct national comparison of all proposed measures to support consistency of final adjusted targets.
6. Compile and compare all proposed targets (formally submitted as part of state plan revisions).
7. Finalize agreement on adjusted levels of performance.