

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO REGULATIONS ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSISTANCE
FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS**

603 CMR 2.00

- Presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for initial review and vote to solicit public comment: **February 28, 2017**
- Period of public comment: **through April 5, 2017**
- Anticipated final action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education: **April 18, 2017**

Summary: Among other matters, the regulations on Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools describe the Commonwealth's framework for district accountability and assistance, and the process for placing schools into Levels 1-5. The proposed amendment would allow the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to refrain from placing certain schools into Levels 1-3 at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.

See below for the text of sections 2.04 of the regulations, with the proposed amendment redlined. The full text of the regulations is posted at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr2.html>.

603 CMR 2.00:

Accountability and Assistance for School Districts and Schools

Adopted by the Board of Education: June 16, 1997

Most Recently Amended by the Board of Education: June 26, 2012

2.04: Accountability and Assistance for Districts and Schools in Levels 1-3

(1) Placement of schools and districts in Levels 1 and 2

(a) A school shall be placed in Level 1 or 2 of the framework for district accountability and assistance based on the performance of students in the aggregate and subgroups, according to the Department's annual performance determination. The Department shall publish guidance for schools as to what performance leads to placement in what level.

(b) A school shall move from one level to another within Levels 1 and 2 by virtue of change in the performance of students in the aggregate and subgroups, according to the Department's annual performance determination, and in accordance with guidance published by the Department pursuant to 603 CMR 2.04(1)(a).

(c) Districts shall be placed in Levels 1 and 2 in accordance with the levels of their schools, and shall move from one level to another within Levels 1 and 2 by virtue of change in their schools' levels pursuant to 603 CMR 2.04(1)(b). The Department shall publish guidance for districts as to what performance leads to placement in what level.

(2) Placement of schools and districts in Level 3 A school shall be placed in Level 3 of the framework for district accountability and assistance if any one of its subgroups scores among the lowest performing

subgroups in the state. The Department may place a school in Level 3 if it scores in the lowest 20% statewide of schools serving common grade levels pursuant to 603 CMR 2.05(2)(a). The Department shall publish guidance describing the specific methodology used to identify Level 3 schools, as well as guidance for districts as to what performance leads to placement in what level.

(3) Self-assessment by districts in Level 3 A district in Level 3 shall use a process approved by the Department to complete a self-assessment, shall use the self-assessment to identify unmet conditions for school effectiveness (see 603 CMR 2.03(4)(b)), and shall address the unmet conditions by revising its District Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plans.

(4) Limitation of certain provisions In 2017, the provisions of 603 CMR 2.04 (1) – (3) will not apply to any school that enrolls students in grades 3-8, provided that the school has a participation rate of at least 90 percent in the administration of the spring 2017 MCAS tests and does not have a persistently low graduation rate.