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**DPS: 2015-144**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Hershel Lyons

**DATE:** September 18, 2015

**SUBJECT: 2015 Updates Regarding the 300 Lowest Performing Elementary Schools**

As you are aware, the 2015-2016 list of schools identified as among the 300 lowest performing elementary schools in reading will remain the same as the 2014-2015 list. These schools are required by law to provide an additional hour of instruction beyond the normal school day for each day of the entire school year for intensive reading instruction for the students in each of these schools. See section 1011.62, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

For purposes of compliance with this requirement, a school year is understood to be comprised of 180 instructional days, section 1011.60(2), F.S., and the additional instructional time requirement is understood to be additive relative to the current minimums of 720 hours per year for students in grades K-3 and 900 hours per year for students in grades 4 and higher, section 1011.61(1)(a)1., F.S.

Therefore, each school identified as one of the 300 lowest performing elementary schools in reading will be required to schedule a minimum of 900 annual instructional hours for students in grades K-3, and 1080 annual instructional hours for students in grades 4 and higher, through an additional hour of reading instruction provided each day during the regular day school year. Pursuant to section 1008.32, F.S., the State Board of Education shall withhold funds from a school district that fails to comply with this requirement. See Ch. 2015-232, §82, line 90, Laws of Florida.

Attached is the updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding extended day requirements for the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools. For additional information, please contact Melissa Ramsey, executive director of School Improvement, at 850-245-0841 or by email at [Melissa.Ramsey@fldoe.org](mailto:Melissa.Ramsey@fldoe.org).

HL/mr

Attachments

cc: School District Accountability Coordinators

HERSHEL LYONS  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS