

State Board committee supports tougher DOR standards

The State Board of Education's Accountability and Continuous Improvement Committee recently recommended approval of stricter administrative rules for dropout prevention and recovery (DOR) school report cards as part of a required five-year review.

The proposed rules call for an increase in the percentage of students participating in DOR programs from more than 50 percent to at least 65 percent for the 2019-2020 school year and at least 75 percent in 2020-2021.

According to the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) Center for Accountability and Continuous Improvement, the change could impact a handful of the state's roughly 80 DOR schools that have "significant chunks" of students in lower grades.

The committee also recommends to the full State Board a proposed tougher scoring system, increasing requirements to achieve "meets standards." Under current rules, schools must achieve four-year graduation rates between eight and 35.9 percent. Schools with four-year graduation rates below eight percent do not meet standards, while those with rates above 36 percent exceed standards.

Under the proposed rules, four-year graduation requirements would increase to:

- ◆ 0 to 24 percent = does not meet standards
- ◆ 25 to 67 percent = meets standards
- ◆ More than 67 percent = exceeds standards

Under the existing rule requirements, 27 schools exceeded standards, 41 met standards and 17 did not meet standards during the 2016-2017 school year. Under the proposed criteria, five schools would have exceeded standards, 36 would have met standards, and 44 would not have met standards.

Five-year, six-year and seven-year graduation rates would increase from at least 12 percent (to meet standards) to at least 30 percent, at least 32 percent, and at least 34 percent, respectively.

Only one member of the committee voted in opposition to the proposed changes, noting that the legislature is currently considering major changes to Ohio's existing report cards.