



Department of Education

Mike DeWine, Governor
Dr. Stephanie K. Siddens, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

March 8, 2023

Youngstown City Schools Board of Education
20 W. Wood St.
Youngstown, OH 44503

Dear President Patterson:

Thank you for submitting the revisions to your academic improvement plan previously approved on December 3, 2021. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3302.103, any improvement plan shall not be modified without the state superintendent's approval. After a thorough review, the proposed modifications have been approved.

The plan outlines the key strategies and related benchmarks to ensure the long-term success of students in your district. In my review of this plan, I focused on the proposed academic benchmarks to ensure they represent ambitious, achievable goals while also looking for evidence of stakeholder input and effective improvement strategies.

The Ohio Department of Education recognizes districts have had to work even harder to support students as a result of pandemic-related challenges. At the same time, it is important that we continue to have high expectations for student success. After three years of implementing the plan, the State Board of Education will evaluate whether a majority of the benchmarks have been met. The approved plan and recent revisions ensure that all summative three-year benchmarks are set no lower than pre-pandemic levels.

State law outlines the requirements moving forward as the district implements the plan. The following table provides key dates and milestone activities for implementation and evaluation of the plan.

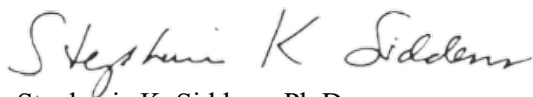
Table with 2 columns: Key Milestones, Summary of Activity. Rows include Preparation (Dec 3, 2021 - June 30, 2022), Implementation (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023), Implementation (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024), Implementation (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025), and Evaluation (June 30, 2025).

<p>One Year Extension 2025-2026 school year</p>	<p>One school year extension permitted: If the district improves but does not meet at least a majority of the academic improvement benchmarks, the district board of education may apply to the state superintendent for an extension of one school year to continue implementing the plan.</p>
<p>Extension Evaluation June 30, 2026</p>	<p>First Year Extension Evaluation: After first year extension, district is evaluated by the State Board of Education to determine if the majority of academic improvement benchmarks are met.</p>
<p>One Year Extension 2026-2027 school year</p>	<p>Second School Year Extension Permitted: If the district does not meet at least a majority of the established benchmarks at the end of the extension, the district again may apply to the state superintendent for an extension of one school year to continue implementing the plan.</p>
<p>Final Review June 30, 2027</p>	<p>Final Review of Plan After Two Extensions: After last extension, State Superintendent determines if the majority of academic improvement benchmarks are met.</p>

The Department stands ready to assist with implementation of the approved plan. As always, please continue to engage your State Support Team (SST) as you implement your plan and align your improvement infrastructure (district leadership teams, building teams and teacher-based teams). SSTs also have expertise in early literacy, early learning and school readiness, positive behavioral intervention and supports, special education, and can assist in developing tracking systems for graduation data.

The Department will work with the leadership of the State Board of Education on expectations for the timing and format of the first annual report, which will include a district presentation to the State Board. The Department will provide more information on the Board schedule as it becomes available. Please contact [Patricia Nyquist](#) in the Center for Continuous Improvement to coordinate any follow-up requests.

Sincerely,



Stephanie K. Siddens, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

CC: Superintendent Justin Jennings, Youngstown City School District