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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Utah State Board of Education

**FROM:** Angie Stallings, Deputy Superintendent  
Policy and Communication

**DATE:** October 6-7, 2016

**DISCUSSION:** School Turnaround Policy Options

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### **Background:**

Rule 277-920-7 requires staff to provide to the Board, by December 1, 2016, recommendations regarding consequences for a low performing school that does not improve within a certain number of years. Staff will present policy options for the Board's consideration. Staff will also present recommendations for changes to Rule 277-920-3 that allows the Superintendent to issue a waiver to exclude a low performing school from participating in the school turnaround program.

### **Board Strategic Plan:**

This item supports the following imperative and strategies in the Board's Strategic Plan: Oversight - Monitor, review, and provide general supervision to all public education institutions and other entities for which the State Board has responsibility.

### **Anticipated Action:**

The Standards and Assessment Committee will be presented with a document presenting policy options for the Board's consideration. It is anticipated that the Committee will direct staff regarding changes to rule.

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# School Turnaround Policy Options



Prepared by the  
Utah State Board of Education

October 6-7, 2016

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## Policy Options for Amendments to R277-920, Implementation of the School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act

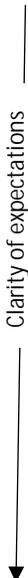
### Consequences for low performing schools that do not improve within specified timelines

The School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act (the Act) requires the Utah State Board of Education (the Board) to make rules establishing consequences for a low performing school that does not improve the school’s grade by at least one letter grade by the school’s final remedial year or the last school year of the extension period, if granted by the Board. The Act further requires that the rules include a mechanism for restructuring a district school or charter school. Rule 277-920-7 provides that the Board may restructure a low performing school by taking it over, or by other means as the Board deems appropriate, and requires staff to provide to the Board, by December 1, 2016, recommendations for changes to the rule regarding hearing and procedure requirements related to the Board’s imposition of a consequence under the Act.

Although the Act requires the Board to impose a consequence, the rule is currently permissive and only specifically references one restructuring consequence (state takeover). Therefore, it is unclear what action the Board will take if a school does not improve within the specified timelines.

### Policy Options for the Board’s Consideration

To provide clarity and set expectations, the Board may consider the following options:

	Options	Advantages
Clarity of expectations 	Amend the rule to provide that a consequence will be imposed, clarify the process for state takeover, and establish hearing and procedure requirements	Clarifies that action will be taken if a school does not improve within specified timeframes and sets expectations regarding the process for state takeover
	Establish consequences in addition to state takeover that the Board could choose to impose at the end of the turnaround period	Specifying other potential consequences sets expectations regarding other options the Board may consider
	Establish certain action or interventions the Board may require as a condition of granting an extension	Sets expectations for granting an extension, which helps to ensure it is not viewed as an entitlement if the academic performance improvement thresholds are met; provides an opportunity to impose less-punitive measures prior to an ultimate consequence at the end of the turnaround period

These options will be presented for the Board's consideration regarding the process for taking over a school, other consequences that could be imposed at the end of the turnaround period and interventions the Board could require as a condition of granting an extension.