

grams and competitive programs, see section 5 of Pub. L. 114-95, set out as a note under section 6301 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 113-128 effective on the first day of the first full program year after July 22, 2014 (July 1, 2015), see section 506 of Pub. L. 113-128, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3101 of Title 29, Labor.

§ 2343. Improvement plans

(a) State program improvement

(1) Plan

If a State fails to meet at least 90 percent of an agreed upon State adjusted level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance described in section 2323(b)(3) of this title, the eligible agency shall develop and implement a program improvement plan (with special consideration to performance gaps identified under section 2323(c)(2) of this title) in consultation with the appropriate agencies, individuals, and organizations during the first program year succeeding the program year for which the eligible agency failed to so meet the State adjusted level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance.

(2) Technical assistance

If the Secretary determines that an eligible agency is not properly implementing the eligible agency's responsibilities under section 2342 of this title, or is not making substantial progress in meeting the purposes of this chapter, based on the State's adjusted levels of performance, the Secretary shall work with the eligible agency to implement the improvement activities consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(3) Subsequent action

(A) In general

The Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, withhold from an eligible agency all, or a portion, of the eligible agency's allotment under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 2322(a) of this title if the eligible agency—

- (i) fails to implement an improvement plan as described in paragraph (1);
- (ii) fails to make any improvement in meeting any of the State adjusted levels of performance for the core indicators of performance identified under paragraph (1) within the first program year of implementation of its improvement plan described in paragraph (1); or
- (iii) fails to meet at least 90 percent of an agreed upon State adjusted level of performance for the same core indicator of performance for 3 consecutive years.

(B) Waiver for exceptional circumstances

The Secretary may waive the sanction in subparagraph (A) due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster or a precipitous and unforeseen decline in the financial resources of the State.

(4) Funds resulting from reduced allotments

The Secretary shall use funds withheld under paragraph (3) for a State served by an

eligible agency to provide technical assistance, to assist in the development of an improved State improvement plan, or for other improvement activities consistent with the requirements of this chapter for such State.

(b) Local program improvement

(1) Local evaluation

Each eligible agency shall evaluate annually, using the local adjusted levels of performance described in section 2323(b)(4) of this title, the career and technical education activities of each eligible recipient receiving funds under this subchapter.

(2) Plan

If, after reviewing the evaluation in paragraph (1), the eligible agency determines that an eligible recipient failed to meet at least 90 percent of an agreed upon local adjusted level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance described in section 2323(b)(4) of this title, the eligible recipient shall develop and implement a program improvement plan (with special consideration to performance gaps identified under section 2323(b)(4)(C)(i)(II) of this title) in consultation with the eligible agency, appropriate agencies, individuals, and organizations during the first program year succeeding the program year for which the eligible recipient failed to so meet any of the local adjusted levels of performance for any of the core indicators of performance.

(3) Technical assistance

If the eligible agency determines that an eligible recipient is not properly implementing the eligible recipient's responsibilities under section 2354 of this title, or is not making substantial progress in meeting the purposes of this chapter, based on the local adjusted levels of performance, the eligible agency shall work with the eligible recipient to implement improvement activities consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(4) Subsequent action

(A) In general

The eligible agency may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, withhold from the eligible recipient all, or a portion, of the eligible recipient's allotment under this subchapter if the eligible recipient—

- (i) fails to implement an improvement plan as described in paragraph (2);
- (ii) fails to make any improvement in meeting any of the local adjusted levels of performance for the core indicators of performance identified under paragraph (2) within the first program year of implementation of its improvement plan described in paragraph (2); or
- (iii) fails to meet at least 90 percent of an agreed upon local adjusted level of performance for the same core indicator of performance for 3 consecutive years.

(B) Waiver for exceptional circumstances

In determining whether to impose sanctions under subparagraph (A), the eligible agency may waive imposing sanctions—

- (i) due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster

or a precipitous and unforeseen decline in the financial resources of the eligible recipient; or

(ii) based on the impact on the eligible recipient's reported performance of the small size of the career and technical education program operated by the eligible recipient.

(5) Funds resulting from reduced allotments

The eligible agency shall use funds withheld under paragraph (4) from an eligible recipient to provide (through alternative arrangements) services and activities to students within the area served by such recipient to meet the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 88-210, title I, §123, as added Pub. L. 109-270, §1(b), Aug. 12, 2006, 120 Stat. 721; amended Pub. L. 115-224, title I, §123, July 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 1606.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

Pub. L. 115-224, § 4, title I, § 123, July 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 1564, 1606, made amendments to this section, effective July 1, 2019. After July 1, 2019, this section will read as follows:

§ 2343. *Improvement plans*

(a) *State program improvement*

(1) *Plan*

If a State fails to meet at least 90 percent of the State determined level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance described in 2323(b)(2) of this title for all CTE concentrators, the eligible agency shall develop and implement a program improvement plan (that includes an analysis of the performance disparities or gaps identified under section 2323(b)(3)(C)(ii)(II) of this title, and actions that will be taken to address such gaps) in consultation with the appropriate agencies, individuals, and organizations during the first program year succeeding the program year for which the eligible agency failed to so meet the State determined level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance.

(2) *Technical assistance*

If the Secretary determines that an eligible agency is not properly implementing the eligible agency's responsibilities under section 2342 of this title, or is not making substantial progress in meeting the purposes of this section, including after implementation of the improvement plan described in paragraph (1), based on the State determined levels of performance, the Secretary shall work with the eligible agency to implement the improvement activities consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(3) *Subsequent action*

(A) *In general*

The Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, withhold from an eligible agency all, or a portion, of the eligible agency's allotment under paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 2322(a) of this title if the eligible agency—

(i) fails to implement an improvement plan as described in paragraph (1); or

(ii) with respect to any specific core indicator of performance that was identified in a program improvement plan under paragraph

(1), fails to meet at least 90 percent of a State determined level of performance for such core indicator for 2 consecutive years after the eligible agency has been identified for improvement under such paragraph.

(B) *Waiver for exceptional circumstances*

The Secretary may waive the sanction in subparagraph (A) due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster or a precipitous and unforeseen decline in the financial resources of the State.

(4) *Funds resulting from reduced allotments*

The Secretary shall use funds withheld under paragraph (3) for a State served by an eligible agency to provide technical assistance, to assist in the development of an improved State improvement plan, or for other improvement activities consistent with the requirements of this chapter for such State.

(5) *Adjustments prohibited*

An eligible agency shall not be eligible to adjust performance levels while executing an improvement plan under this section.

(b) *Local program improvement*

(1) *Local evaluation*

Each eligible agency shall evaluate annually, using the local levels of performance described in section 2323(b)(4) of this title, the career and technical education activities of each eligible recipient receiving funds under this subchapter.

(2) *Plan*

If, after reviewing the evaluation in paragraph (1), the eligible agency determines that an eligible recipient failed to meet at least 90 percent of an agreed upon local level of performance for any of the core indicators of performance described in section 2323(b)(4) of this title for all CTE concentrators, the eligible recipient shall develop and implement a program improvement plan (that includes an analysis of the performance disparities or gaps identified under section 2323(b)(3)(C)(ii)(II) of this title, and actions that will be taken to address such gaps) in consultation with local stakeholders described in section 2354(d)(1) of this title, the eligible agency, and appropriate agencies, individuals, and organizations during the first program year succeeding the program year for which the eligible recipient failed to so meet any of the local levels of performance for any of the core indicators of performance.

(3) *Technical assistance*

If the eligible agency determines that an eligible recipient is not properly implementing the eligible recipient's responsibilities under section 2354 of this title, or is not making substantial progress in meeting the purposes of this chapter, based on the local levels of performance, the eligible agency shall work with the eligible recipient to implement improvement activities consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(4) *Subsequent action*

(A) *In general*

The eligible agency may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, withhold from the eligible recipient all, or a portion, of the eligible recipient's allotment under this subchapter if the eligible recipient—

(i) fails to implement an improvement plan as described in paragraph (2); or

(ii) with respect to any specific core indicator of performance that was identified in a program improvement plan under paragraph (2), fails to meet at least 90 percent of the local level of performance for such core indicator for 2 consecutive years after the eligible recipient has been identified for improvement under such paragraph.

(B) Waiver for exceptional circumstances

In determining whether to impose sanctions under subparagraph (A), the eligible agency may waive imposing sanctions—

(i) due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster or a precipitous and unforeseen decline in the financial resources of the eligible recipient;

(ii) based on the impact on the eligible recipient's reported performance of the small size of the career and technical education program operated by the eligible recipient; or

(iii) in response to a public request from an eligible recipient, if the eligible agency determines that the requirements described in clause (i) or (ii) have been met.

(5) Funds resulting from reduced allotments

The eligible agency shall use funds withheld under paragraph (4) from an eligible recipient to provide (through alternative arrangements) services and activities to students within the area served by such recipient to meet the purposes of this chapter.

(6) Adjustments prohibited

An eligible recipient shall not be eligible to adjust performance levels while executing an improvement plan under this section.

See 2018 Amendment notes below.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2343, Pub. L. 88-210, title I, §123, as added Pub. L. 105-332, §1(b), Oct. 31, 1998, 112 Stat. 3106, related to improvement plans, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 109-270.

Another prior section 2343, Pub. L. 88-210, title II, §240, as added Pub. L. 101-392, title II, §201, Sept. 25, 1990, 104 Stat. 784, related to local applications, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-332.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(1)(A), substituted “percent of the” for “percent of an agreed upon”, “State determined level of performance” for “State adjusted level of performance” in two places, “2323(b)(2) of this title for all CTE concentrators” for “section 2323(b)(3) of this title”, and “(that includes an analysis of the performance disparities or gaps identified under section 2323(b)(3)(C)(ii)(II) of this title, and actions that will be taken to address such gaps)” for “(with special consideration to performance gaps identified under section 2323(c)(2) of this title)”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(1)(B), substituted “purposes of this section, including after implementation of the improvement plan described in paragraph (1),” for “purposes of this chapter” and “State determined levels of performance” for “State’s adjusted levels of performance”.

Subsec. (a)(3)(A)(ii), (iii). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(1)(C), added cl. (ii) and struck out former cls. (ii) and (iii) which read as follows:

“(ii) fails to make any improvement in meeting any of the State adjusted levels of performance for the core

indicators of performance identified under paragraph (1) within the first program year of implementation of its improvement plan described in paragraph (1); or

“(iii) fails to meet at least 90 percent of an agreed upon State adjusted level of performance for the same core indicator of performance for 3 consecutive years.” Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(1)(D), added par. (5).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(2)(A), substituted “local level” for “local adjusted level” and “local levels” for “local adjusted levels” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(2)(B)(ii), which directed substitution of “(that includes an analysis of the performance disparities or gaps identified under section 2323(b)(3)(C)(ii)(II) of this title, and actions that will be taken to address such gaps) in consultation with local stakeholders described in section 2354(d)(1) of this title, the eligible agency, and” for “(with special consideration to performance gaps identified under section 2323(b)(4)(C)(ii)(II) of this title in consultation with the eligible agency,” was executed by making the substitution for text containing another closing parenthesis after “of this title”, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 115-224, §123(2)(B)(i), inserted “for all CTE concentrators” after “section 2323(b)(4) of this title”.

Subsec. (b)(4)(A)(ii), (iii). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(2)(C)(i), added cl. (ii) and struck out former cls. (ii) and (iii) which read as follows:

“(i) fails to make any improvement in meeting any of the local adjusted levels of performance for the core indicators of performance identified under paragraph (2) within the first program year of implementation of its improvement plan described in paragraph (2); or

“(ii) fails to meet at least 90 percent of an agreed upon local adjusted level of performance for the same core indicator of performance for 3 consecutive years.”

Subsec. (b)(4)(B)(iii). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(2)(C)(ii), added cl. (iii).

Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 115-224, §123(2)(D), added par. (6).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-224 effective July 1, 2019, see section 4 of Pub. L. 115-224, set out as a note under section 2301 of this title.

§ 2344. State leadership activities

(a) General authority

From amounts reserved under section 2322(a)(2) of this title, each eligible agency shall conduct State leadership activities.

(b) Required uses of funds

The State leadership activities described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the career and technical education programs carried out with funds under this subchapter, including an assessment of how the needs of special populations are being met and how the career and technical education programs are designed to enable special populations to meet State adjusted levels of performance and prepare the special populations for further education, further training, or for high skill, high wage, or high demand occupations;

(2) developing, improving, or expanding the use of technology in career and technical education that may include—

(A) training of career and technical education teachers, faculty, career guidance and academic counselors, and administrators to use technology, including distance learning;

(B) providing career and technical education students with the academic and ca-