

Defining “turnaround”

In relation to School Improvement

The term “turnaround” is used in many contexts with definitions ranging from general to very specific. The Bureau of School Improvement (BSI) uses the word turnaround with a lowercase “t” to mean a drastic, whole-school improvement that can take many forms (e.g., “the school is implementing a turnaround model”). However, BSI employs a few very specific usages of the word which require an uppercase “T” (e.g., Turnaround Option Plan, District-Managed Turnaround, and SIG Turnaround model). These are described below.

Differentiated Accountability turnaround options

Pursuant to [Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#), in the first full year after a school earns a single grade of “F” or a second grade of “D,” the school district must select a turnaround option and submit a **Turnaround Option Plan (TOP)** to the Florida Department of Education. Five options are available to help “turn around” a school’s performance:

1. **District-Managed Turnaround (DMT)**: Convert to a district-managed turnaround school
2. **Closure**: Reassign students to another school or schools and monitor progress of each reassigned student
3. **Charter**: Close and reopen the school as one or more charter schools, each with a governing board that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness
4. **External Operator**: Contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school
5. **Hybrid**: Implement a hybrid of turnaround options 1-4 or other turnaround models that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness

All options, except Closure, require that the district address a series of common requirements in the TOP, as outlined in [Form TOP-2](#). Option-specific requirements are also addressed in all five options. If the school’s grade does not improve, the TOP must be implemented in the following year.

School Improvement Grant 1003(g) intervention models

The School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g) “intervention models,” as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, differ slightly from Florida’s turnaround options. For SIG-targeted schools also required to plan for turnaround pursuant to Section 1008.33, F.S., the BSI cross-walked turnaround options and SIG models as follows:

Florida turnaround options	SIG intervention models
(1) District-Managed Turnaround (DMT)	(1a) Transformation
	(1b) Turnaround
(2) Closure	(2) Closure
(3) Charter	(3) Restart with Charter
(4) External Operator	(4) Restart with Education Management Organization (EMO)
(5) Hybrid	Not offered under SIG

Districts that select DMT for the purposes of SIG must further delineate between “Transformation” and “**Turnaround**” and follow the final requirements accordingly. Districts selecting charter or EMO will be considered “Restart” for SIG purposes and will follow the final requirements for Restart, in addition to any requirements under Florida statute for the selected type of restart (i.e., charter or EMO).