



**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM
FINANCE**

FINANCE TAM: 2025-017
CONTACT: Beth Marky, Accountant
Budgeting and Financial Services
TELEPHONE: 833-5827

TO: Select Principals
FROM: Julie Perry, Chief Financial Officer *Julie A. Perry*
DATE: October 14, 2024
SUBJECT: School Recognition Certification of Compliance – Project 4160

Per Florida Statutes Section 1008.36, all expenditures of School Recognition (A+) funds must be used for nonrecurring bonuses for school faculty and staff, nonrecurring expenditures for education equipment or materials, or for temporary personnel to assist schools in maintaining or improving student performance.

Please find attached the following information:

1. Certification of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and
2. Florida Statutes Section 1008.36, 1008.34, and 1008.341

Please sign, scan, and e-mail a PDF of the Certification of Compliance to Beth Marky in Finance, no later than November 15, 2024.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Beth Marky, Budget Analyst, at 833-5827.

Attachments

Excerpt from The 2024 Florida Statutes

1008.36 Florida School Recognition Program.

- (1) The Legislature finds that there is a need for a performance incentive program for outstanding faculty and staff in highly productive schools. The Legislature further finds that performance-based incentives are commonplace in the private sector and should be infused into the public sector as a reward for productivity.
- (2) The Florida School Recognition Program is created to provide financial awards to public schools that:
 - (a) Sustain high performance by receiving a school grade of “A,” making excellent progress; or
 - (b) Demonstrate exemplary improvement due to innovation and effort by improving at least one letter grade or by improving more than one letter grade and sustaining the improvement the following school year.
- (3) All public schools, including charter schools, that receive a school grade pursuant to s. [1008.34](#) are eligible to participate in the program..
- (4) All selected schools shall receive financial awards depending on the availability of funds appropriated and the number and size of schools selected to receive an award. Funds must be distributed to the school’s fiscal agent and placed in the school’s account and must be used for purposes listed in subsection (5) as determined jointly by the school’s staff and school advisory council. If school staff and the school advisory council cannot reach agreement by February 1, the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school. If a school selected to receive a school recognition award is no longer in existence at the time the award is paid, the district school superintendent shall distribute the funds to teachers who taught at the school in the previous year in the form of a bonus.
- (5) School recognition awards must be used for the following:
 - (a) Nonrecurring bonuses to the faculty and staff;
 - (b) Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials to assist in maintaining and improving student performance; or
 - (c) Temporary personnel for the school to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.

Notwithstanding statutory provisions to the contrary, incentive awards are not subject to collective bargaining.

1008.34 School Grading System; School Report Cards; District Grade.

(3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

- (a) Each school must assess at least 95 percent of its eligible students, except as provided under s. 1008.341 for alternative schools. Each school shall receive a school grade based on the school’s performance on the components listed in subparagraphs (b)1. and 2. If a school does not have at least 10 students with complete data for one or more of the components listed in subparagraphs (b)1. and 2., those components may not be used in calculating the school’s grade.
 1. An alternative school may choose to receive a school grade under this section or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341. For charter schools that meet the definition of an alternative school pursuant to State Board of Education rule, the decision to receive a school grade is the decision of the charter school governing board.

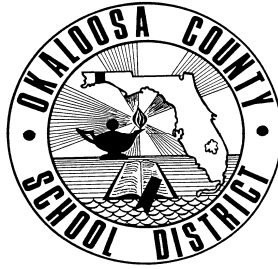
Excerpt from The 2024 Florida Statutes

1008.341 School Improvement Rating for Alternative Schools.

- (2) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATING.— An alternative school is a school that provides dropout prevention and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53. An alternative school shall receive a school improvement rating pursuant to this section unless the school earns a school grade pursuant to s. 1008.34. An alternative school that chooses to receive a school improvement rating shall receive a school improvement rating if the number of its students for whom student performance data on statewide, standardized assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22 which is available for the current year and previous year meets or exceeds the minimum sample size of 10. If an alternative school does not have at least 10 students with complete data for a component listed in subsection (3), that component may not be used in calculating the school's improvement rating. The calculation of the school improvement rating shall be based on the percentage of points earned from the components listed in subsection (3). An alternative school that tests at least 80 percent of its students may receive a school improvement rating. If an alternative school tests less than 90 percent of its students, the school may not earn a rating higher than "maintaining." Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, if an alternative school does not meet the requirements for the issuance of a school improvement rating in the current year, and has failed to receive a school improvement rating for the prior 2 consecutive years, the school shall receive a rating for the current year based upon a compilation of all student Learning Gains, for all grade levels, for those 3 years. Likewise, if the school fails to meet the requirements for a rating the following year or any year thereafter, the school's rating shall be based on a compilation of student Learning Gains achieved during the current and prior 2 years. The school improvement rating shall identify an alternative school as having one of the following ratings defined according to rules of the State Board of Education:

- (a) "Commendable" means a significant percentage of the students attending the school are making Learning Gains.
- (b) "Maintaining" means a sufficient percentage of the students attending the school are making Learning Gains.
- (c) "Unsatisfactory" means an insufficient percentage of the students attending the school are making Learning Gains.

Schools that improve at least one level or maintain a "commendable" rating pursuant to this section are eligible for school recognition awards pursuant to s. [1008.36](#).



**School District of Okaloosa County
Florida School Recognition Program
Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Certification of Compliance

The Florida Statutes require school recognition funds to be used for nonrecurring bonuses for school faculty and staff, nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials, or for temporary personnel to assist schools in maintaining or improving student performance.

I certify to the Superintendent and the School Board that all School Recognition expenditures were expended in accordance and in compliance with Florida Statutes Section 1008.36.

School: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Date: _____