

HARPURSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICE (AIS) FOR 2015-2016

In a memo to school districts, Acting Deputy Commissioner Charles A. Szuberla, Jr. provided information regarding AIS for the 2015-16 school year. The memo states:

To ensure that existing support services, including Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and Title I compensatory services, remain relevant and appropriate as New York continues to implement the Common Core Learning Standards, the Board of Regents at its September 2014 meeting directed the State Education Department (SED or “the Department”) to develop proposed amendments to Commissioner’s Regulations to continue providing flexibility to districts in the provision of AIS (see <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/914brca8.pdf>).

Accordingly, at the September 16, 2015, Board of Regents meeting, the Department will recommend that the Board approve amendments to regulations that require that districts continue to provide AIS to students scoring below the following scale scores on the 2015 Grades 3-8 English language arts and mathematics assessments: ¹

- Grade 3 English language arts, a scale score of 299
- Grade 4 English language arts, a scale score of 296
- Grade 5 English language arts, a scale score of 297
- Grade 6 English language arts, a scale score of 297
- Grade 7 English language arts, a scale score of 301
- Grade 8 English language arts, a scale score of 302

- Grade 3 mathematics, a scale score of 293
- Grade 4 mathematics, a scale score of 284
- Grade 5 mathematics, a scale score of 289
- Grade 6 mathematics, a scale score of 289
- Grade 7 mathematics, a scale score of 290
- Grade 8 mathematics, a scale score of 293

¹These are the same scale score cut points that were used to determine which students were required to receive AIS for grade 3-8 ELA and math during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school year.

The Department will further recommend that those students scoring at or above these designated scale scores but below level 3/proficient not be required to receive academic intervention instructional and/or student support services during the 2015-16 school year unless the school district, in its discretion, deems it necessary. If these recommendations are adopted by the Board of Regents and districts receive flexibility in deciding whether certain students will receive AIS, districts should use multiple measures of student academic need to make these determinations.

The proposed regulations would require each school district to continue to implement a uniform process by which the district determines whether to offer AIS during the 2015-16 school year to struggling students and, no later than November 1, 2015, to either post to its website or distribute to parents in writing a description of this process.

Subsequent to the SED memo, the Harpursville Central School has ensured that its practices related to providing AIS to its students is consistent with the information contained herein and/or regulatory language. The manner in which AIS is being provided to students for the 2015-2016 is outlined below for both the W.A. Olmsted Elementary and the Harpursville Jr./Sr. High School.

W.A. Olmsted Elementary:

Elementary students in grades 4 through 6 will receive mandated Academic Intervention Services (AIS) consistent with the requirements of SED. Students scoring below the given cut scores (above) for the respective exam will be provided with AIS. Students scoring at or above the given cut scores for the respective exam, but not achieving a Level 3 Proficient score, will either receive AIS services or be formally progress monitored. Determination of intervention path will be achieved using multiple assessment measures including Universal Screenings, class performance, and teacher observation.

Harpursville Jr./Sr. High School:

All students will receive mandated Academic Intervention Services consistent with the requirements of SED. That is, all students will receive additional instruction or will be progress monitored in the discipline where the student needs support. In general, multiple measures were utilized in the approach taken for scheduling AIS. The following uniform process applies for students in grades 7-9:

- A student who did not have a valid test score was scheduled for an AIS class (or progress monitored at the recommendation of the department) if their final class average from last year was below a 70.
- Students who scored a level 1 or level 2 and whose scale score was below the cut points identified by SED above have been scheduled for an AIS class with the number of meeting times for the class being maximized as the student's schedule permits. For example, if the student requires AIS for both math and ELA and only has 3/6 days total available in their schedule, then the "lower-performing" subject area was scheduled for 2 days in the 6-day cycle and the other subject for 1 day in the 6-day cycle.
- Students that scored below level 3 and who are not scheduled for an AIS class will be progress monitored, either formally or informally, as required.