

yearly progress standards. No Child Left Behind also requires states to put in place a reward system for schools and local education agencies that meet or exceed adequate yearly progress. But because of the first-year results, required sanctions are garnering much more attention. Schools and local education agencies not receiving Title I funds are not subject to sanctions, but in 2003–2004, all LEAs had at least one school that received Title I money (in all, 1,096 regular [non-charter] schools).<sup>14</sup> There are three levels of NCLB assessment—school-level, LEA-level, and state-level—each with its own special sanctions.

### *School-Level Sanctions*

Schools not meeting adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years are designated as being in “Title I School Improvement,” which means that they must develop improvement plans incorporating strategies from “scientifically based research” and face the first year of sanctions. In 2003–2004, 18 regular schools (up from four the previous year) and 18 charter schools (up from 11 the previous year) already have earned this designation, based on failure to meet preexisting and new adequate yearly progress standards. Sanctions are added for each year that a school designated as being in Title I School Improvement does not meet adequate yearly progress, in this order:

- *Public school choice*—Families of any student at a Title I school can request student transfer to a non-sanctioned school designated by the LEA at LEA expense.
- *Supplemental educational services*—Students receiving free or reduced lunch are eligible to receive out-of-school tutoring services at LEA expense from a list of State Board of Education approved providers.
- *Corrective action*—LEAs must take at least one of several prescribed actions (like replacing staff who are relevant to the failure to make adequate yearly progress, or extending the school year).
- *Plan for restructuring*—The LEA will have one year to plan for the implementation of one of several options for the school for the following year (like re-opening it as a charter school or turning the operation of the school over to the state).
- *Restructuring*—the plan devised during the preceding year will be put into place.<sup>15</sup>

Once a school is designated as in School Improvement status, its LEA must be prepared to dedicate an amount equal to up to 20 percent of its *total* Title I allotment for transportation and supplemental services, even if only one school in the LEA is

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## *What's in Store for Schools Not Progressing Under No Child Left Behind*

Schools that fail to make adequate yearly progress will face the following consequences:

**2 Years**—Get Labeled” in need of improvement,” must allow students to choose another school in the district, and must be provided with technical assistance from the state.

**3 Years**—Receive state-financed supplemental services, such as additional tutoring and remedial services, usually in reading, math, or science.

**4 Years**—Must replace school staff, institute a new curriculum, extend the school year or school day, or restructure the internal organization.

**5 Years**—Must reopen as a charter school, replace all or most of the staff, enter into a contract with an entity such as a private management company, turn operations to the state, or undergo major restructuring.

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