

284.8 Performance review requirements for teachers — peer group reviews.

1. A school district shall provide for an annual review of each teacher's performance for purposes of assisting teachers in making continuous improvement, documenting continued competence in the Iowa teaching standards, identifying teachers in need of improvement, or to determine whether the teacher's practice meets school district expectations for career advancement. The review shall include, at minimum, classroom observation of the teacher, the teacher's progress, and implementation of the teacher's individual professional development plan, subject to the level of resources provided to implement the plan; and shall include supporting documentation from parents, students, and other teachers. The first and second year of review shall be conducted by a peer group of teachers. The peer group shall review all of the peer group members. Peer group reviews shall be formative and shall be conducted on an informal, collaborative basis that is focused on assisting each peer group member in achieving the goals of the teacher's individual professional development plan. Peer group reviews shall not be the basis for recommending that a teacher participate in an intensive assistance program, and shall not be used to determine the compensation, promotion, layoff, or termination of a teacher, or any other determination affecting a teacher's employment status. However, as a result of a peer group review, a teacher may elect to participate in an intensive assistance program. Members of the peer group shall be reviewed every third year by at least one evaluator certified in accordance with [section 284.10](#).

2. If a supervisor or an evaluator determines, at any time, as a result of a teacher's performance that the teacher is not meeting district expectations under the Iowa teaching standards specified in [section 284.3, subsection 1](#), paragraphs "a" through "h", and the criteria for the Iowa teaching standards developed by the department in accordance with [section 256.9, subsection 42](#), the evaluator shall, at the direction of the teacher's supervisor, recommend to the district that the teacher participate in an intensive assistance program. The intensive assistance program and its implementation are not subject to negotiation and grievance procedures established pursuant to [chapter 20](#). All school districts shall be prepared to offer an intensive assistance program.

3. A teacher who is not meeting the applicable standards and criteria based on a determination made pursuant to [subsection 2](#) shall participate in an intensive assistance program. However, a teacher who has previously participated in an intensive assistance program relating to particular Iowa teaching standards or criteria shall not be entitled to participate in another intensive assistance program relating to the same standards or criteria and shall be subject to the provisions of [subsection 4](#).

4. Following a teacher's participation in an intensive assistance program, the teacher shall be reevaluated to determine whether the teacher successfully completed the intensive assistance program and is meeting district expectations under the applicable Iowa teaching standards or criteria. If the teacher did not successfully complete the intensive assistance program or continues not to meet the applicable Iowa teaching standards or criteria, the board may do any of the following:

a. Terminate the teacher's contract immediately pursuant to [section 279.27](#).

b. Terminate the teacher's contract at the end of the school year pursuant to [section 279.15](#).

c. Continue the teacher's contract for a period not to exceed one year. However, the contract shall not be renewed and shall not be subject to [section 279.15](#).

2001 Acts, ch 161, §9; 2002 Acts, ch 1152, §17; 2003 Acts, ch 180, §47; 2006 Acts, ch 1182, §22; 2007 Acts, ch 108, §31, 32; 2007 Acts, ch 215, §253; 2008 Acts, ch 1181, §81; 2012 Acts, ch 1119, §6; 2013 Acts, ch 121, §74; 2017 Acts, ch 2, §44 – 46, 48, 49

Referred to in [§284.2, 284.6](#)

For provisions relating to applicability of 2017 amendments to employment contracts of school employees under chapter 279 and collective bargaining agreements and procedures under chapter 20 before, on, or after February 17, 2017, see [2017 Acts, ch 2, §48, 49](#)