

281—62.9 (256,279) Ensuring continuous improvement in reading proficiency.

62.9(1) *Reading proficiency addressed in comprehensive school improvement plan.* To ensure all children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade, each school district shall address reading proficiency as part of its comprehensive school improvement plan, drawing upon information about students from assessments and reassessment conducted pursuant to this chapter and the prevalence of areas in which students are persistently at risk in reading, identified by classroom, elementary school, and other student characteristics.

62.9(2) *Review of chronic early absenteeism.* As part of its comprehensive school improvement plan, each school district shall review chronic early elementary absenteeism for its impact on literacy development.

62.9(3) *Attendance centers with lower levels of reading proficiency.* If more than 15 percent of an attendance center's students are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade, the comprehensive school improvement plan shall include strategies to reduce that percentage, including school and community strategies to raise the percentage of students who are reading at grade level. Strategies adopted under this subrule shall meet the requirements of this chapter.

62.9(4) *Professional development.* Each school district, subject to an appropriation of funds by the general assembly, shall provide professional development services to enhance the skills of elementary teachers in responding to children's unique reading issues and needs and to increase the use of evidence-based strategies.

62.9(5) *Relationship between this chapter and the department's general accreditation standards.* In addition to the requirement in subrule 62.9(1), the department shall consider compliance with and performance under this chapter in its enforcement of the general accreditation standards and school improvement process described in 281—Chapter 12.

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