

Special Districts Statutory Performance Reviews

Presentation to the House Local Administration, Federal Affairs &
Special Districts Subcommittee

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Agenda

- Discuss the scope for the performance reviews
- Present the research objectives and related information the research team will seek
- Describe the performance review research process

Special District Performance Reviews - s. 189.0695, *F.S.*

Reviews to be conducted by special districts

The following districts must contract with an independent entity to conduct the required performance reviews:

- ❖ Independent special fire control districts, by June 30, 2023, and every five years thereafter
- ❖ Hospitals governed by a special district board or a board of trustees of a public health trust, by June 30, 2024, and every five years thereafter

Special District Performance Reviews - s. 189.0695, *F.S.*

Reviews to be conducted by OPPAGA

- ❖ **3** independent special fire control districts located in rural areas of opportunity by June 30, 2023 and every five years thereafter
 - Walton County: Liberty and Argyle
 - Collier County: Immokalee
- ❖ **15** independent mosquito control districts, by September 30, 2023
- ❖ **50+** independent soil and water conservation districts, by September 30, 2024

Performance Reviews: Focus

Research team: OPPAGA may conduct or contract for performance reviews of special districts.



*Performance reviews
generally focus on:*

- *Specific statutory criteria*
- *Efficiency of operations*
- *Effectiveness of activities*
- *Accountability and transparency*
- *Significance of findings*

Research Objectives

What information will the research team review?

Statutory Research Objectives

The performance reviews will include three previous fiscal years and the current fiscal year's information on district:

1. **Creation, governance, and responsibilities**
2. **Purpose, goals, and objectives**
3. **Performance relative to goals and objectives**
4. **Resource management (money, facilities, equipment, and staff) and planning**
5. **Service delivery and potential for duplication**

Source: s. 189.0695 *F.S.*

Governance

What is known about the creation of the district and its governance?

History of the
district



Current board
characteristics



Board meeting
frequency



Interactions
with other
government
entities



Goals and Objectives

What is the purpose of each program and activity?

Problems or needs that the program or activity was designed to address

Expected benefits

Achievable in adopted budget

Performance

Assess whether the district's goals and objectives are measurable, and address the district's purpose.

Internal

If the district has performance measures, are these:

- Being met
- Useful to evaluating the district
- Sufficient to evaluate costs



External

What data is available on how external stakeholders evaluate the district's performance:

- Surveys of residents
- Post-service evaluation forms
- Grant application feedback

Resource Management

How well does the district manage its resources?

Costs:
administrative,
program,
contracting

**Specific
expenditures:**
staffing, facilities,
equipment

**Trends: revenues
and expenditures**

**Cost reduction
efforts**

Strategic plans

**Previous financial
audit findings**

Services and Duplication

How does the district deliver services and are similar services locally available?

SERVICE DELIVERY

What services are delivered? To what extent?

SIMILAR SERVICES

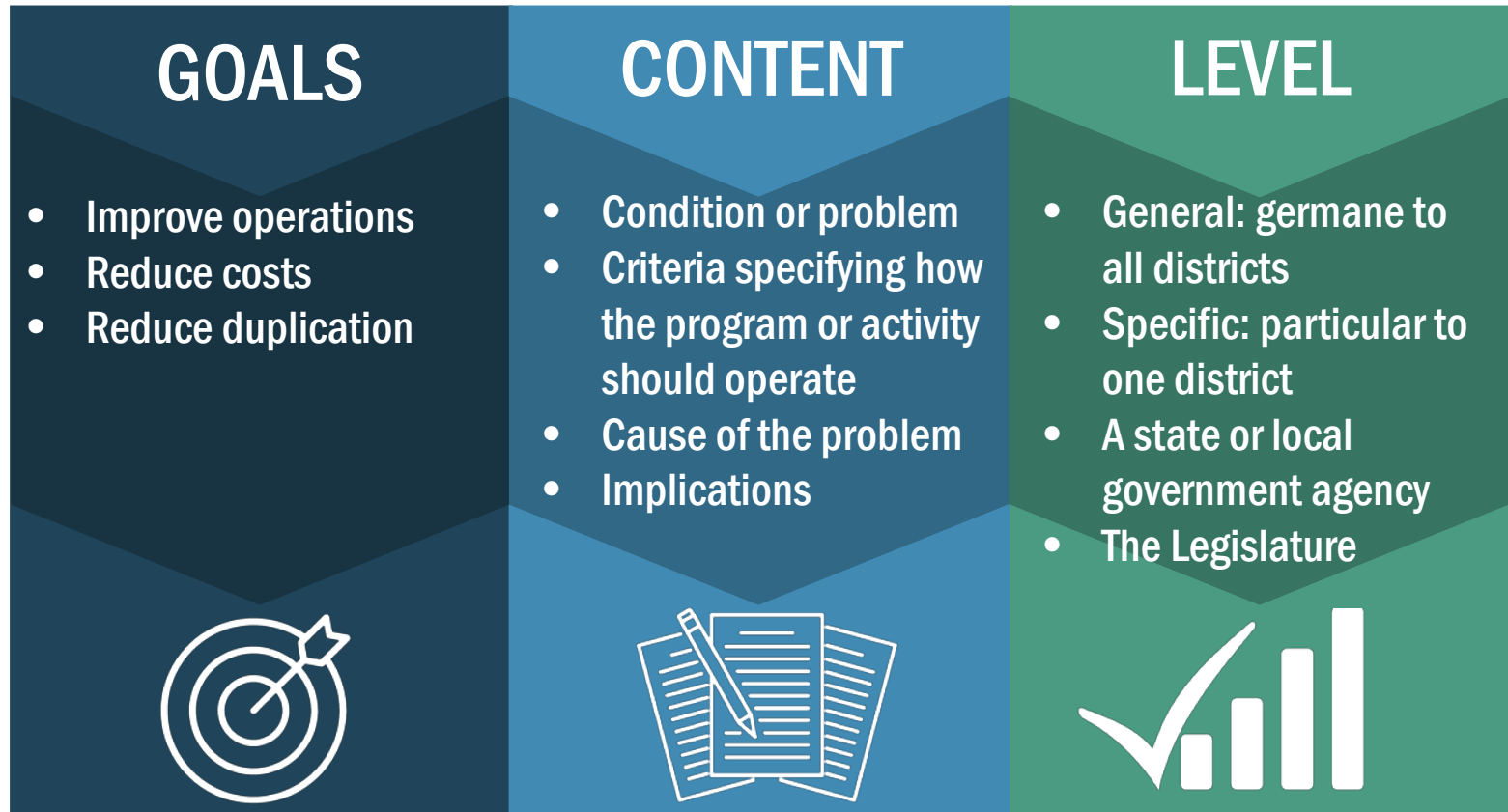
What similar services are other government entities providing?



ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

What alternative service delivery approaches have been evaluated?

Recommendations



Recommendations will include potential benefits and adverse consequences of a change.

Performance Review Research Process

How will the research process work?

Status of Reviews

October 2022

September 2024

**Fire
(OPPAGA)**

**Project Start
(Oct. 2022)**

**Publication
(June 2023)**

**Mosquito
(Contracted)**

**Project Start
(Jan. 2023)**

**Publication
(Sept. 2023)**

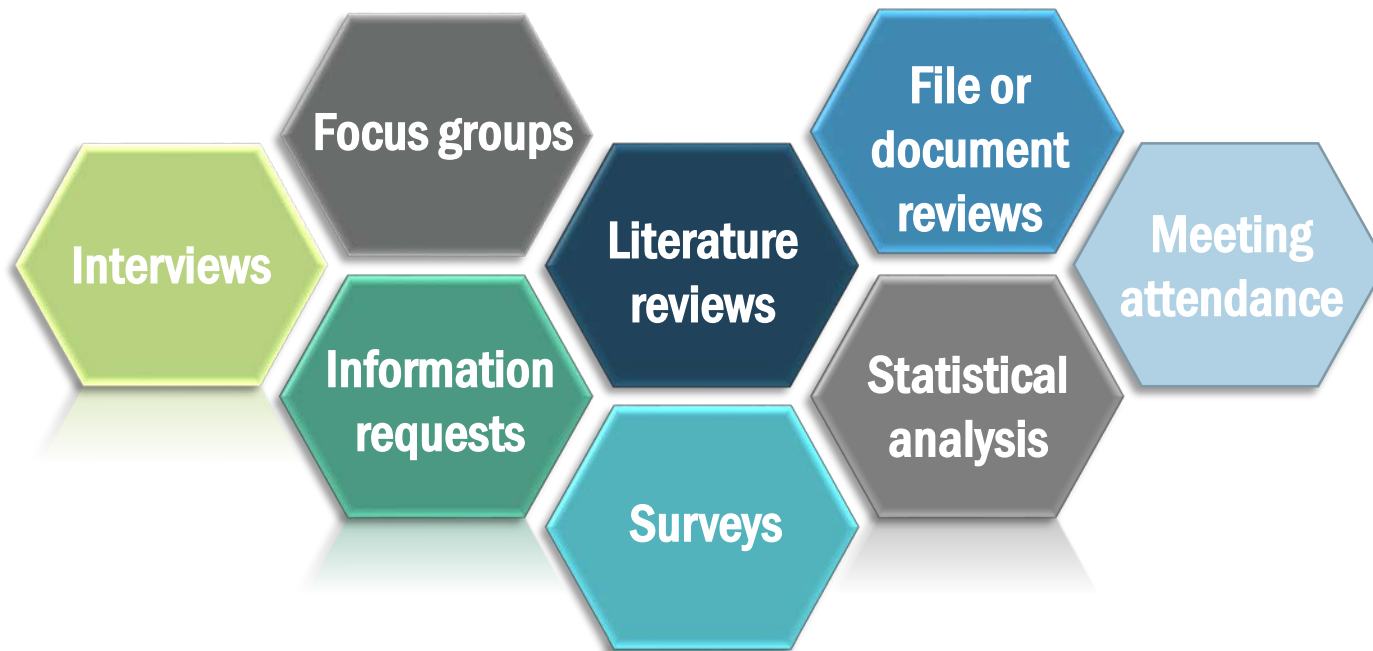
**Conservation
(TBD)**

**Project Start
(Aug.- Sept.
2023)**

**Publication
(Sept. 2024)**

Typical Fieldwork Activities

Fieldwork will begin with the district. The research team will need a point of contact for all correspondence.



Preliminary and Tentative Draft Review

Once fieldwork is complete, districts and legislative committee staff will receive draft reports.



District

- Checks for factual errors
- Drafts a response letter

**Research
Team**

- Makes corrections
- Incorporates response letter into final product

Report Publication

Reports appear on OPPAGA's website and are available to the public.



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FLORIDA LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS AND
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