



TOPIC: **1003(g) School Improvement Grants – SIG**

OFFICE: **Quality Schools**

BACKGROUND:

On January 21, 2010, the United States Education Department (USED) released final requirements for School Improvement Grants (SIG) authorized under Section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Through the SIG program, the USED requires State educational agencies (SEAs) to use three tiers to prioritize funding to local educational agencies (LEAs) with the lowest-achieving schools that have the greatest need and demonstrate the strongest commitment to use the funds to significantly raise the achievement of their students. It is USED's expectation that SIG funds are used for the implementation of one of four rigorous school intervention models—turnaround, restart, school closure, and transformation—in each identified school.

Consistent with USED requirements, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education developed a methodology to define and identify these schools. The State Board of Education approved this definition at the January 2010 meeting. LEA's submitted the grant applications during the summer of 2010.

Fifteen (15) LEA's (representing 32 individual school buildings) were awarded 1003(g) School Improvement (SIG) grants during the first year.

SYSTEM OF SUPPORT:

The School Improvement Section of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides support to 1003(g) SIG grant recipients identified as one of the lowest performing 5% of schools in the state located in the following regions: Southeast, Kansas City and St. Louis. If additional regions are identified in the future, support will be provided to those LEA/schools as well.

Assistance and oversight is provided to designated LEAs in overcoming challenges in the implementation of an approved reform model (turnaround, transformation, restart and closure), including the creation and roll-out of a robust plan for rapid and sustainable improvement.

The primary work includes:

- Facilitate the LEA/schools teams in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of improvement efforts, specifically in the areas of turnaround and transformation.
- Provide coaching to LEA/school teams as they implement rapid and sustainable improvement in teaching and student learning.
- Provide assistance to LEA/schools in meeting the timelines for deliverables, benchmark measures and project budgets.
- Identify and assist in resolving conflicts and barriers that prevent LEAs/schools from effectively implementing the improvement plan.
- Facilitate technical assistance and professional development sessions that support the improvement plan.
- Assist LEAs/schools in analyzing school data from a variety of sources to measure progress and drive instructional decision-making.
- Conduct regular visits (at a minimum monthly) to assigned LEA/schools to monitor the fidelity to and effectiveness of improvement plan implementation, measures and timelines.

- Monitor the LEA/district indicated leading indicator data.
- Conduct classroom observations and interviews (at a minimum monthly) of building faculty and staff, students and parents to track and monitor the progression of change related to the improvement plan implementation.
- Conduct monthly meetings with the identified LEA/schools administrators to address the implementation efforts.
- Measure, analyze and report LEA/school progress toward meeting the designated indicators of improvement and AYP.