

2011 School Improvement Grant 1003(g) Key Points

- When announcing the availability of the School Improvement Funds, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said: "Turning around our worst performing schools is difficult for everyone but it is critical that we show the courage to do the right thing by kids."
- The Department of Education is required to create and publish a list of Missouri schools and charter schools that are "persistently lowest-achieving" in order to receive Title I School Improvement 1003(g) funds. The State Board of Education approved a definition and procedure for identifying Missouri schools, and the definition was subsequently approved by the U.S. Department of Education.
- The method of identifying schools, which includes three years of performance on the mathematics and communication arts assessments, may generate a list that includes schools that have made significant gains. Gains have not been sufficient to remove them from the list.
- Missouri has identified 56 Tier I and Tier II schools.
- "Tier I Schools" are selected from all schools that are receiving federal Title I funds in 2010-11 and have already been identified as being in improvement, corrective action or restructuring status. Grant recipients from the previous 1003(g) SIG grant cycle were removed from the list of schools identified during the 2010-12 process. Over the past three years, the identified schools are the lowest-achieving five percent of the remaining schools in the pool, based on state reading and math assessments.
- "Tier II Schools" were selected from middle and high schools that are *eligible* to receive Title I funds, regardless of whether the schools actually receive such funds. Grant recipients from the previous 1003(g) SIG grant cycle were removed from the list of schools identified during the 2010-12 process. From this pool, the state identified the lowest-achieving five percent of the buildings for the past three years, based on state reading and math assessments; or buildings which have graduation rates below 60 percent (regardless of their scores on reading and math assessments).
- "Tier III Schools" are schools that are eligible for Title I, Part A funds and that have not made AYP for at least the last two years; or are in the State's lowest quintile of performance based on proficiency rates on the State's assessments under section 1111(b)(3) of the ESEA in

reading/language arts and mathematics combined; and does not meet the requirements to be identified as a Tier I or Tier II school.

- Missouri schools identified as persistently lowest-achieving will be eligible to benefit from 1003(g) School Improvement funding for a three year period. Yearly renewals will be dependent upon successful implementation, improved student achievement and continued availability of Federal funds.
- LEAs must apply for SIG funding and must decide which schools have the greatest need and potential for improvement. Funds will be made available to LEAs and schools through **competitive** “school improvement grants” (SIG). LEAs that commit to the SIG process are eligible for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$2 million per building.
- Identified buildings that participate in the SIG process must commit to adopting one of the following approaches:
 - ✓ TURNAROUND MODEL: Replace the principal, screen existing school staff, and rehire no more than half the teachers; adopt a new governance structure; and improve the school through curriculum reform, professional development, extending learning time, and other strategies.
 - ✓ RESTART MODEL: Convert a school or close it and re-open it as a charter school or under an education management organization.
 - ✓ SCHOOL CLOSURE: Close the school and send the students to higher-achieving schools in the district.
 - ✓ TRANSFORMATION MODEL: Replace the principal and improve the school through comprehensive curriculum reform, professional development, extending learning time, and other strategies.

For additional information on each of the four intervention models, please refer to the guidance released by the United States Education Department (USED):

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/sigguidance02232011.pdf>