

Louisiana Believes

2016 Louisiana School Improvement Grant Competition

Objectives

- Ensure all eligible applicants understand the components of the SIG grant
- Ensure all eligible applicants understand the timelines and resources available to support completion of the grant

Agenda

1. Progress in Expanding Access to High-Quality Schools
2. School Improvement Grant Purpose
3. SIG Models
4. Eligibility
5. Application Requirements
6. Timeline
7. Contact Information

Turnaround Progress Over Time

Louisiana has made substantial progress turning around its lowest performing schools and creating new options for students who attend those schools.

Since 2012 the number of failing non-alternative schools has dropped by nearly half, resulting in 24,000 fewer students attending F schools.

More than 50,000 fewer students attend D and F schools now than in 2012.

School Improvement Grants

School Improvement Grants are federal grants given to LEAs to support the turnaround of their lowest performing schools through the use of a few specified models.

These models can be used for strategies such as:

- Re-structuring low-performing schools in partnership with intermediaries such as P-Tech;
- Making substantial investments in attracting, developing, and retaining high-quality talent, such as by adopting the TAP model; or
- Closing poor-performing schools or re-opening them as charter schools

School Improvement Grants

Transformation Model *	Turnaround Model *
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the school leader • Use rigorous teacher / principal evaluation standards • Develop incentives for teacher recruitment / retention • Aligned, job-embedded professional development • Reward high-performing staff and remove low-performing staff 	<p>Transformation Model plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant the new leader autonomy • Screen existing staff and re-hire no more than 50% • New governance structure (reporting to someone new) • Research-based curricula aligned vertically w/ state standards • Continuous use of student data to inform instruction • Schedules + strategies for increased learning time • Social-emotional + community-oriented student supports
Early Learning Model *	Whole School Reform Model
<p>Transformation Model plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer full-day kindergarten • Establish or expands high-quality Pre-K • Provide time for joint planning • Research-based curricula aligned vertically w/ state standards • Continuous use of student data to inform instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a model from this list: http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/sigevidencebased/index.html
Closure Model	Restart Model
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close school and enroll students in higher achieving schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert or close and re-open school as charter

* Rural LEAs may modify one element

More information on each model can be found in the Federal SIG Guidance on the LDE's SIG webpage, [here](#).

Current SIG Opportunity

In 2016 BESE will award more than \$17.5 million in SIG grants to LEAs.

All current priority and focus schools are eligible to receive either a new award or a continuation award.

- Priority and focus schools that have not received a SIG grant within the past three years are eligible for “new” awards.
- Priority and focus schools that received a SIG grant in 2013 or more recently are eligible for “continuation” awards.

New Award Application Requirements

1. A detailed description of the school's needs, based on a rigorous needs assessment,
2. An evidence-based school improvement plan that aligns with the school's needs and with all of the requirements of one of the SIG models, and
3. Evidence that the LEA has selected a high-quality school improvement partner, if applicable, and plans for holding that partner accountable.

Continuation Award Application Requirements

LEAs may request a grant extension of up to two years and / or additional funding to support a current SIG grant. Applications must include a viable plan to:

1. Complete activities included in the approved SIG application,
2. Prepare the school to sustain the activities that led to school improvement after the grant period ends, or
3. Modify activities in the approved SIG application, including changing the SIG model if necessary, in order to achieve project objectives

SIG Awards Timeline

Application released June 20

Application due July 18

BESE awards made August 9

Contact

Contact David Shepard (david.shepard@la.gov) with questions.