# 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



- 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> <li>Replace the school leader</li> <li>Use rigorous teacher / principal evaluation standards</li> <li>Develop incentives for teacher recruitment / retention</li> <li>Aligned, job-embedded professional development</li> <li>Reward high-performing staff and remove low-performing staff</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Transformation Model plus:</li> <li>Grant the new leader autonomy</li> <li>Screen existing staff and re-hire no more than 50%</li> <li>New governance structure (reporting to someone new)</li> <li>Research-based curricula aligned vertically w/ state standards</li> <li>Continuous use of student data to inform instruction</li> <li>Schedules + strategies for increased learning time</li> <li>Social-emotional + community-oriented student supports</li> </ul>
Early Learning Model *	Whole School Reform Model
<ul> <li>Transformation Model plus:</li> <li>Offer full-day kindergarten</li> <li>Establish or expands high-quality Pre-K</li> <li>Provide time for joint planning</li> <li>Research-based curricula aligned vertically w/ state standards</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Use a model from this list: <u>http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/sigevidencebased/index.ht</u> <u>ml</u></li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Continuous use of student data to inform instruction</li> </ul>	
	Restart Model

\* 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:

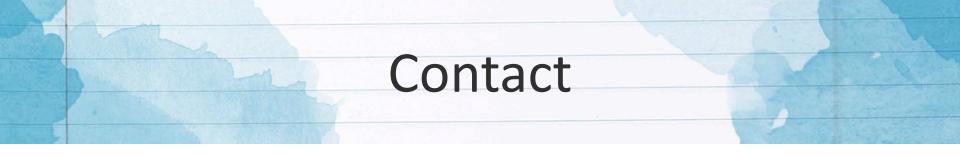
- 1. Complete activities included in the approved SIG application,
- 2. Prepare the school to sustain the activities that led to school improvement after the grant period ends, or
- 3. Modify activities in the approved SIG application, including changing the SIG model if necessary, in order to achieve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

## **SIG** Awards Timeline

#### Application released June 20

### Application due July 18

#### BESE awards made August 9



# Contact David Shepard (<u>david.shepard@la.gov</u>) with questions.