1003(g) SIG Application and Grant FAQ - SY 2016-2017

General Questions:

1. **What is the purpose of this grant?**
   The purpose of the grant is to accelerate school turnaround, promote a sense of urgency, develop and support internal accountability, establish a clear focus on results, and build leadership capacity. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is looking for a well-articulated, focused, and quality plan. The grant goals should be student-driven and data-focused. Please review IDOE's 1003g rubric on the IDOE SIG website: www.doe.in.gov/sig to see how applications are assessed.

2. **Why is the application in draft form? What does that mean for applicants?**
   There is a draft watermark on the 2016-2017 LEA 1003(g) SIG Application because it is still pending federal approval. The application has been released as a draft to ensure ample time for applicants to prepare their submissions. Once approved, a final application will be released. Any changes should be minimal, so any work you have done with the draft should be easily transferrable.

3. **Will technical assistance for applying be offered?**
   Yes. Please see the table below on the timeline of upcoming technical assistance opportunities:

Technical assistance training through a live webinar. Join the webinar through the link below: https://indiana-doe.webex.com/indiana-doe/j.php?MTID=m1aaab1090d16d592f32292e9f764c764 Number: **(877) 422-1931** Pin: **542-270-3981**	July 14, 2016, 10:00-11:00am
Technical assistance training through open calls. Number: **(877) 422-1931** Pin: **542-270-3981**	July 20, 2016, 3:30-4:30pm July 28, 2016, 10:00-11:00am
Technical assistance through appointments on-site at the Department of Education. Schedule an appointment using this jot form: https://form.jotform.com/61465812951964	August 16, 2016, 9:00-4:00pm August 18, 2016, 9:00-4:00pm

4. **Is this a competitive grant?**
   Yes, this is a competitive grant for Title I-served Focus and Priority schools.

5. **Who is eligible to apply?**
   Title I –served Focus and Priority Schools may apply. Schools must be on the Eligible List posted on the IDOE SIG website: www.doe.in.gov/sig. Current 1003(g) recipients are not eligible to apply.

6. **What is the due-date and timeline for the application process?**

1003(g) LEA application released (Draft)	May 31, 2016
LEA applications due	August 30, 2016
Preliminary Award Notification	September 30, 2016
Planning/Technical Assistance	October 1,2016 – December 30, 2016
Early Implementation	January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017

7. **If schools have received 1003(a) funding, are they still eligible to apply?**
   Yes, the 1003(a) and 1003(g) are different grant opportunities. The language that current schools may not apply, specifically refers to the schools that already have a 1003(g) grant for the 2016-2017 school year.

8. **What range of funding is available to schools?**
   Schools may apply for a minimum of $50,000 and up to a maximum of $2,000,000 for each year of the grant. IDOE will review all proposed budgets for reasonable, allocable, and necessary expenditures. IDOE expects to see varied funding for each school year – decreasing throughout the three implementation years and the final sustainability year.

9. **If an awarded school earns an "A" or exits improvement status, will they lose their SIG?**
   No, schools will not lose their school improvement grant due to improved school letter grades. Schools are eligible based on their current status.

Application Questions:

10. **Is there a list of required attachments to provide?**
    The required documents differ based upon the model you choose. At minimum, you are required to submit a completed application, budget, and the evidence required in Part 10 (i.e. evidence of school board commitment, evidence of superintendent commitment, evidence of teacher's union commitment, etc.).

11. **The application asks for SY 15-16 testing data. How will we enter this baseline without our results?**
    Use the most recent testing data as your baseline. If SY 15-16 data is available, use it. If not, use SY 14-15 data. If SY 15-16 data is not available, please provide projected or goal data for SY 15-16.

12. **How can schools get input from stakeholders during the summer?**
    Utilize automated district calling systems, letters, texts, or get out into the community asking for feedback. Utilize social media outlets to reach parents and other key stakeholders over the summer.

13. **How should single-site charter schools approach the LEA specific sections?**
    There are several sections in the application requesting information on LEA support. All charters have a charter authorizer that would serve as LEA support for the school. Charter schools that are part of a network may opt to utilize network staff also.

14. **How many of the SIG Model required elements do we have to implement?**
    ALL required elements must be implemented. Required elements may vary from model to model. Please refer to the *1003g SIG Models Part 6 SY 2019-2017* guidance document on the IDOE SIG website: www.doe.in.gov/sig that outlines the requirements for each model.

Increased Learning Time:

15. **One of the required elements is increased learning time. Can SIG funds be used to extend the day for select students only?**
    One of the federal requirements of SIG is increased learning time for ALL students. Once that requirement is met, you may provide other opportunities/programs to meet the needs of select groups of students.

16. If we extended the length of our reading or math block for all students, does that meet the requirement of increased learning time?

No, because that only shifts the focus of already existing learning time. Adding minutes to the school day or adding days to the school calendar would both be examples of increasing learning time for all students.

17. Can SIG funds be used to extend the day for teacher collaboration?

Yes, this is an allowable expense.

18. Can SIG funds be used to provide transportation for increased learning time opportunities?

Yes, this is an allowable expense.

Leadership Questions:

19. Who would be a great candidate as a principal mentor?

Consider what kind of mentor would fit your school. The mentor should be equipped to help the specific needs of your school that were identified while completing the Needs Assessment piece of your application. Provide expectations for this mentor relationship and how this mentor will support the needs of the leader and school.

20. Can the school replace the assistant principal to work with the existing principal as a mentor?

The purpose of the principal mentor requirement is to ensure the principal is supported. How this support is built or what it looks like is up to the school. Explain in the application why this choice was made and how this relationship works. Provide expectations of the mentor relationship.

External Providers:

21. What is an example of an External Provider?

External Providers support the school with their plan and vision. They assist with overall oversight and management. An example, *Successful for All* is an external provider that has been approved by USED for the Whole School Reform Model.

22. Why would we use an external provider?

An LEA may use an "external provider" such as a charter school operator or education management organization in a Restart model or contract with a turnaround organization to assist with implementing the Turnaround model. An LEA may also use an external provider for technical expertise in implementing various components of all models, including evaluation its data, job-embedded professional development, teacher evaluation and support, or safe school environments.

23. Would an intervention provided through an outside contract (e.g., PD, behavioral specialist) be considered an external partner?

An external partner is a company or organization that supports implementation of the model and has frequent ongoing contact with the school (i.e. full time position housed in school). It is not someone who provides professional development to a school once or twice a year.

Fiscal Questions:

24. How much funding is available for Cohort 7?

Cohort 7 funding will be a combination of FY 15 and FY 16 funds from the US Department of Education. Indiana's FY 15 award is $8,631,971.00 and the FY 16 award is $7,388,266.00. Up to $16,020,237.00 is available to award to schools.

25. Can a school hire support staff during their required planning year?

Yes, this year begins to put procedures, practices, and policies into place for implementation.

26. Can SIG funds be used to pay for school apparel or signage with school logo?

No, this is not an allowable expense.

27. Is busing for a balanced calendar schedule an allowable expense?

SIG funding must be supplemental. Busing could be an allowable expense for a balanced calendar as long as the entire district is not using a balanced calendar, and this expense is supplemental.

28. One of the Indiana Condition requirements is to have a principal mentor. Could you pay for mentor with SIG Funds?

Yes, this would be allowable. However, fostering a relationship with someone within the school corporation to serve as a mentor would be supplanting and that is not allowable (e.g. Curriculum Instructional Leader for district cannot also be a mentor for the school).

29. Are we able to pay for substitute coverage while teachers attend professional development?

Yes, this is an allowable expense. Budget those funds in the Non-Cert Salary and Budget columns on the Improvement of Instruction row.