



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Tom Luna
Superintendent of Education
Idaho State Department of Education
P.O Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0027

NOV 14 2012

Dear Superintendent Luna:

As you know, during the week of February 27th, a team from the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of School Turnaround (OST) reviewed the Idaho State Department of Education's (ISDE) administration of Title I, section 1003(g) (School Improvement Grants (SIG)) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. As part of its review, the ED team interviewed staff at the State educational agency (SEA) and one local educational agency (LEA). The ED team also conducted interviews with two principals whose schools are implementing the SIG intervention models.

ED issued ISDE's initial monitoring report based on that review on September 21, 2012. In the course of preparing to respond to a finding in that initial monitoring report, ISDE discovered and voluntarily disclosed to ED additional information that had not been made available during the February monitoring. Over the past several weeks, ISDE has provided ED with documentation regarding that new information, and staff from both agencies have engaged in numerous conversations regarding the information and supporting documentation. Based on ED's review of the documentation provided by ISDE and conversations conducted with ISDE staff since the release of the initial monitoring report, ED is issuing a revised monitoring report with revised and newly added monitoring findings. Enclosed you will find ED's revised monitoring report.

Like the initial monitoring report, the enclosed revised monitoring report is organized in three sections: (1) *Summary and Observation*, (2) *Technical Assistance Recommendations*, and (3) *Monitoring Findings*. The *Summary and Observations* section describes the SIG implementation occurring in the schools and districts visited, initial indicators of success and any outstanding challenges relating to implementation. The *Technical Assistance Recommendations* section contains strategies and resources for addressing technical assistance needs identified during ED's visit. Finally, the *Monitoring Findings* section identifies any compliance issues within the six indicator areas reviewed and corrective actions that the SEA is required to take.

The ISDE has 30 business days from receipt of this revised report to respond to all of the compliance issues contained herein. ED staff will review your response for sufficiency and will determine which areas are acceptable and which require further documentation of implementation. ED will allow 30 business days for receipt of this further documentation, if required. ED recognizes that some corrective actions may require longer than the prescribed 30 days, and in these instances, will work with the ISDE to determine a reasonable timeline. In those instances where additional time is required to implement specific corrective actions, you

must submit a request for such an extension in writing to ED, including a timeline for completion for all related actions.

Each State that participates in an onsite or desk monitoring review and that has significant compliance findings in one or more of the programs monitored will have a condition placed on that program's grant award specifying that the State must submit (and receive approval of) documentation that all compliance issues identified in the monitoring report have been corrected. When documentation sufficient to address all compliance areas has been submitted and approved, ED will then remove the condition from your grant award.

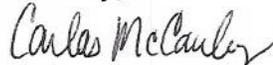
With regards to the *Technical Assistance Recommendations* provided, we encourage you to employ these strategies to further support the effective implementation of the SIG program. ED staff will follow up with your staff over the next few months to see how the ISDE is working to address these issues and make use of this technical assistance.

Please be aware that the observations reported, issues identified, and findings made in the enclosed revised report are based on written documentation or information provided to ED by the SEA or LEA during interviews, as well as the written documentation and information provided to ED by the ISDE following the issuance of the initial monitoring report. The ISDE may receive further communication from ED that will require it to address any additional noncompliance issues.

The ED team would like to thank Steve Underwood for his hard work and the assistance he provided prior to and during the review in gathering materials and providing access to information, as well as his work to provide additional information and documentation following the issuance of the initial monitoring report.

We look forward to working further with your staff to resolve the issues contained in this revised report and to improve the quality of the SIG program in Idaho.

Sincerely,



Carlos McCauley
Group Director
Office of School Turnaround

Enclosure

cc: Steve Underwood