



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (SIG) WEBINAR
FY 2015+2016 SIG APPLICATION AND
REVIEW OF FINAL REQUIREMENTS

AGENDA

Session 1

- Update on the SIG program
- Expectations with FY 2015+2016 funds
- Options for distributing funds
- Application requirements by SEA situation
- Important dates
- Eligible schools

Session 2

- Review of the final requirements posted in the Federal Register, February 2015





**SESSION 1:
EXPECTATIONS FOR THE
FY 2015+2016 SIG APPLICATION**

UPDATE ON THE SIG PROGRAM

- SIG continues to be a critical component of the country's effort to support rigorous interventions aimed at turning around the lowest-performing schools.
- Congress appropriated funds for the SIG program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (approx. \$506 million) and FY 2016 (approx. \$450 million).
 - State allocations can be found [here](#).
- Timeline for allocations to States (based on the combined FY 2015+2016 application):
 - FY 2015: spring 2016, as applications are approved
 - FY 2016: October 2016
- Calls are out for:
 - Responses to [blog post](#) on ways districts can use SIG funds for socioeconomic diversity by April 12, 2016
 - Evidence-based, whole-school reform models by April 29, 2016



EXPECTATIONS FOR FY 2015+2016 FUNDS

- FY 2016 is the final year for SIG funding before ED and SEAs transition to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- SIG funds must operate under [the Final Requirements](#), published in the Federal Register in February 2015 through the period of availability of those funds.
- For new awards, implementation must begin in SY 2016-2017, which may be a planning year.
- SEAs are encouraged to plan for at least three years of full implementation.



EXPECTATIONS FOR FY 2015+2016 FUNDS

(CONT.)

- Obligation of funds:
 - FY 2015 funds must be obligated by Sep 30, 2017.
 - FY 2016 funds must be obligated by Sep 30, 2018.
- SEAs who want to extend the period of availability of FY 2015 and/or 2016 funds to September 30, 2021:
 - must request a Tydings waiver; and
 - must follow the Final Requirements published in the Federal Register in February 2015 for the entire period for which they are using SIG funds.



OPTIONS FOR DISTRIBUTING FUNDS

- States may continue to implement SIG beyond SY 2017-2018 by:
 - Requesting a Tydings waiver to extend the period of availability of SIG funds; and/or
 - Using funds set aside under section 1003(a) of ESSA to complete implementation in SIG schools (up to 5 years).
- States may use funds for continuation/sustainability awards.
- States may run a new competition.
- States may award amounts of funding that decrease over the grant period to encourage sustainability.

OPTIONS FOR DISTRIBUTING FUNDS: EXTENDING EXISTING AWARDS

An SEA may increase the amount of a SIG award for an LEA that is currently implementing a SIG model in a school.

- An LEA may not receive more than \$2 million per year, per school it serves.
- An SEA may provide additional years of funding to an LEA with an existing SIG award, provided that the LEA does not receive more than five years of continuous funding for a school.
- An LEA that wishes to receive additional years of funding must amend its approved application and indicate that it is requesting additional funding for either continued full implementation or activities related to sustaining reforms.
- The SEA must ensure that the LEA's amended application meets applicable requirements and must use renewal criteria for review.



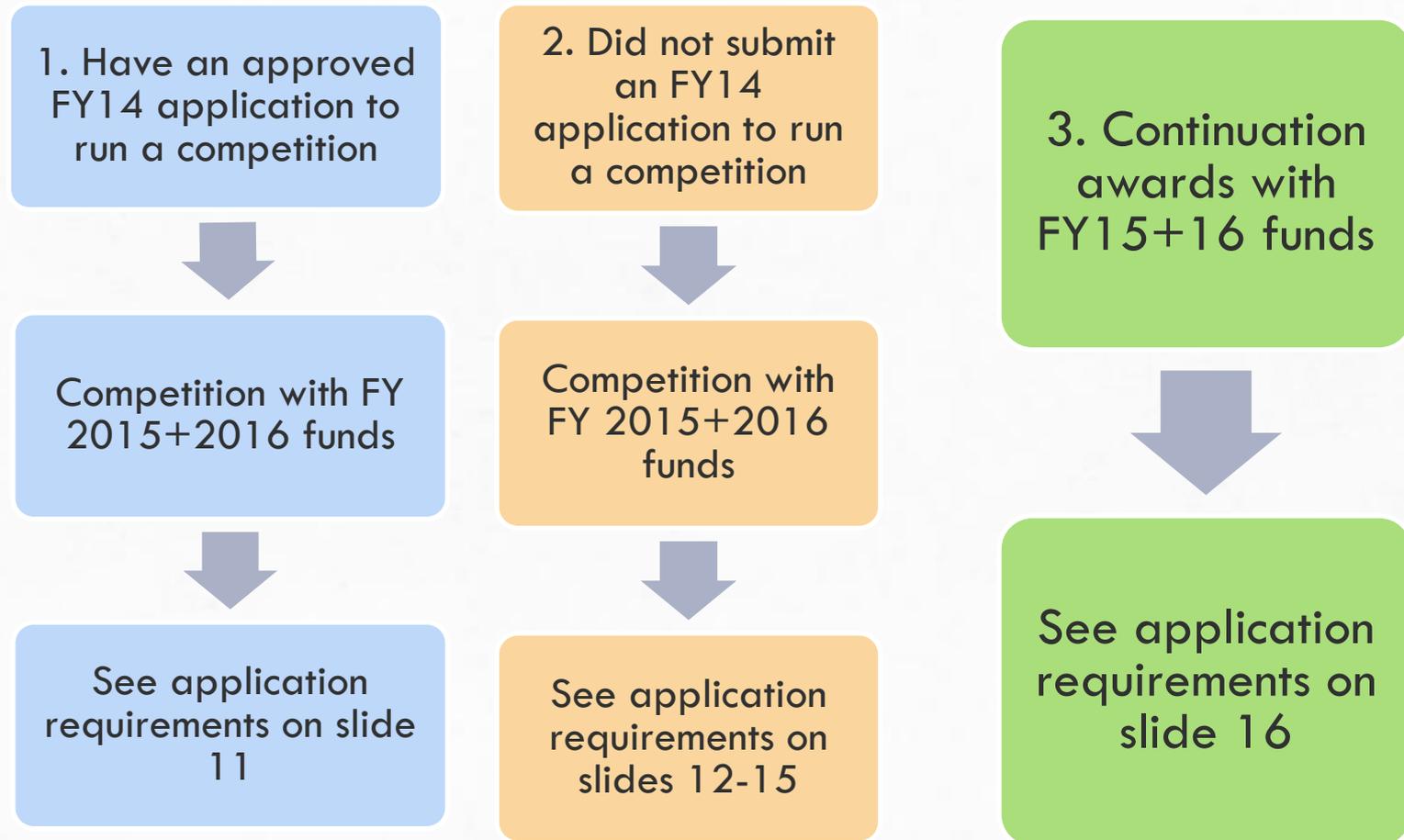
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

APPROACH

- ONE application for FYs 2015+2016 Funding, streamlined to:
 - Expedite review
 - Reduce SEA burden
 - Build on SEAs' prior SIG efforts
- Broadly, there are three categories of SEAs applying for funds:
 1. SEAs with an approved FY 2014 application for a new competition, who want to run a new competition
 2. SEAs without an approved FY 2014 application for a new competition, who want to run a new competition
 3. SEAs who do NOT plan to run a new competition



FY 2015+2016 SIG STATE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS DEPEND ON THE STATE'S APPROACH TO MAKING SIG AWARDS



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. FOR SEAS WITH AN APPROVED FY 2014 APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMPETITION, WHO WANT TO RUN A NEW COMPETITION

- An SEA will ONLY need to submit:
 - a) Signed cover letter (Page 3)
 - b) List of eligible schools (section A, part 1)
 - c) Assurances (section G, part 1)
 - d) Any applicable waiver requests (section I, part 1)
 - e) Timeline (section E, part 1)
 - f) Description of use of State administrative funds (section H, part 1)
 - g) Information about its State-determined intervention model, if appropriate (section B, part 1)
- If making changes to any other sections of their FY 2014 application, an SEA must indicated such in those sections of the FY 2015+2016 application.



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

2. FOR SEAS **WITHOUT** AN APPROVED FY 2014 APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMPETITION WHO WANT TO RUN A NEW COMPETITION

A. Overview of application components

- Submit items a-g listed on Slide 11
- NOTE: SEAs need to offer LEAs additional models including evidence-based, whole-school reform; State-determined intervention (if appropriate); and early learning models



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

2. FOR SEAS **WITHOUT** AN APPROVED FY 2014 APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMPETITION WHO WANT TO RUN A NEW COMPETITION (CONT.)

B. SEA evaluation of local educational agency (LEA) applications to ensure:

- Family and community engagement (C.1 and C.8)
- Oversight and support for schools (C.7)
- Implementation of evidence-based strategies (C.10)
- Plans for meeting the intent and purpose of rural flexibility (C.12)
- Review process for selecting charter school operators and providers under the restart model (C.14)



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

2. FOR SEAS **WITHOUT** AN APPROVED FY 2014 APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMPETITION WHO WANT TO RUN A NEW COMPETITION (CONT.)

- C. Updated LEA application requirements include:
- Interventions aligned to needs analysis (LEA.B.1)
 - Family and community input/engagement (LEA.B.2, LEA.B.9)
 - Oversight and accountability of external providers (LEA.B.5, LEA.B.13, LEA.B.17)
 - Resource alignment (LEA.B.6)
 - LEA oversight/support of school implementation (LEA.B.8)
 - Modifications to reflect options for planning/sustainability years (LEA.B.14, LEA.C.1)
 - Description of modifications under rural flexibility (LEA.B.15)
 - Description of plans for evidence-based, whole-school reform models (LEA.B.16)



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

2. FOR SEAS **WITHOUT** AN APPROVED FY 2014 APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMPETITION WHO WANT TO RUN A NEW COMPETITION (CONT.)

- D. SEA process for reviewing LEAs' proposed budgets with respect to the following (D.1):
 - Optional planning year and sustainability years
 - Maximum total of five years of SIG funding
- E. SEA's process for renewing SIG funds for a school year of planning and other pre-implementation activities for a school (F.2)
 - Determining whether the LEA will be able to fully implement its chosen intervention for the school beginning the first day of the following school year



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

3. FOR SEAS THAT WILL MAKE CONTINUATION AWARDS AND **DO NOT** PLAN TO RUN A NEW COMPETITION

- An SEA must submit the following:
 - Signed cover letter
 - List of schools to receive continuation/sustainability awards
 - List of non-renewal/terminated schools
 - Affirmation of assurances

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 29, 2016: FY2015+FY2016 application released
- April 2016: Office of State Support calls with States
- April-May 2016: State submission of optional state-determined intervention model
- April 12, 2016: Deadline to submit responses to blog post on socioeconomic diversity
- April 29, 2016: Deadline to submit evidence-based models for review
- May 27, 2016: Deadline for submitting FY2015+FY2016 applications



ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

- States with approved ESEA Flexibility requests
 - Per the December 18, 2015 [Dear Colleague Letter](#), States that selected Option A froze their Priority and Focus school lists – these schools are eligible.
 - States that selected Option B submitted a new list by March 1, 2016 – the schools on this new list are eligible.
- States **without** approved ESEA Flexibility requests
 - Schools that were Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III schools in the 2015-2016 school year are eligible schools.

QUESTIONS?





SESSION 2:
**Review of Final Requirements Published in
the Federal Register, February 2015**

AGENDA

- Planning and Sustainability Options
- Three Additional Models
- Strengthened Requirements
- Increased Flexibility
- Updated Reporting and Posting Requirements
- Additional Reminders

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY OPTIONS

- SEAs may make a SIG award to an LEA for a school for up to five years.



- A school may use funds for pre-implementation.
- A school may not receive more than five years of continuous SIG funding.

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY OPTIONS: PLANNING YEAR

- SIG funds may be used for an optional planning year.
- To evaluate planning year budgets, SEAs should apply the same criteria used to evaluate all other proposed uses of SIG funds.
- For renewal after a planning year, an SEA must review the performance of the LEA against its approved application and determine whether the LEA will be able to fully implement on the first day of the following school year.

PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY OPTIONS: SUSTAINABILITY YEAR(S)

- The goal of additional years for sustainability is to help districts and schools transition to continuing the implementation of SIG reforms after SIG funding ends.
- LEAs must submit a sustainability plan that can include a wide range of activities.
- Funding must be at least \$50,000 per year, per school and should be proportional to the proposed activities.

SEVEN SIG MODELS: THREE ADDITIONAL MODELS

1. Transformation model
2. Turnaround model
3. Restart model
4. Closure model

For further details on these models, see the School Improvement Grants website located [here](#),

5. Evidence-based, whole-school reform model
6. Early learning model
7. State-determined intervention model



DEFINITION OF “WHOLE-SCHOOL REFORM MODEL”

This term applies to two models:

- Evidence-based, whole-school reform model
- State-determined intervention model

A **whole-school reform model** is designed to:

- Improve student academic achievement or attainment
- Be implemented for all students in a school
- Address, at a minimum, each of the following:
 - School leadership
 - Teaching and learning in at least one full academic content area
 - Student non-academic support
 - Family and community engagement



5. EVIDENCE-BASED, WHOLE-SCHOOL REFORM MODEL

- If an LEA chooses this model, it must select a model approved by IES.
- ED approved four models in 2015
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/sigevidencebased/index.html>
- ED released a Call for Evidence on March 29, 2016 (due April 29, 2016), available at
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/npr-wholeschlreform.html>.



5. EVIDENCE-BASED, WHOLE-SCHOOL REFORM MODEL: “DEVELOPER” ROLE

- An LEA must implement this model in partnership with a whole-school reform model developer.
- A developer is an entity or individual that:
 - Maintains proprietary rights for the model; or
 - Has a demonstrated record of success in implementing a whole-school reform model and is selected through a rigorous review process that determines that the developer is likely to produce strong results for the school.



5. EVIDENCE-BASED, WHOLE-SCHOOL REFORM MODEL: SEA ROLE

In considering an LEA's application that includes an evidence-based, whole-school reform model, an SEA must consider the extent to which:

- The evidence supporting the model includes a sample population or setting similar to the population or setting of the school to be served; and
- The model developer partner meets the “whole-school reform model developer” definition.



6. EARLY LEARNING MODEL

An LEA that selects this model must:

- Offer full-day kindergarten
- Establish or expand a high-quality preschool program
- Provide educators, including preschool teachers, with joint planning time
- Implement additional requirements that are the same as the transformation model (except no requirement for increased learning time)



7. STATE-DETERMINED INTERVENTION MODEL

- SEAs may submit one State-determined model for review and approval by the Secretary.
- Recommend submitting to ED prior to application submission.
- Proposal (1-3 pages) review criteria for approval:
 - must address each component of whole-school reform model definition (see slide 26)
 - may include, at the SEA's discretion, any other element or strategy that the SEA determines will help improve student achievement



STRENGTHENED REQUIREMENTS: CHARTER SCHOOL OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS UNDER THE RESTART MODEL

- For schools implementing the restart model, LEAs must determine that the selected charter school operator, charter management organization, or education management organization is likely to produce strong results for the school.
- LEAs must also conduct rigorous performance reviews of all external providers in restart and other models throughout the grant period.
- LEAs may use planning or pre-implementation funds to:
 - conduct the rigorous review process required under the restart model
 - hire external providers to assist in planning for and carrying out activities necessary for full implementation of a SIG model in the following year



STRENGTHENED REQUIREMENTS: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- LEA applications must demonstrate that the LEA has or will meaningfully engage families and the community in:
 - the selection of the intervention model; and
 - the implementation of the selected intervention on an ongoing basis.
- This engagement should continue in the planning and pre-implementation stage and throughout the implementation of the intervention model.

STRENGTHENED REQUIREMENTS: LEA MONITORING AND SUPPORT

All LEAs must:

- Ensure that selected SIG interventions are designed to meet the specific needs of the schools served; and
- Provide effective oversight and support for SIG implementation in each school (for example, creating an LEA turnaround office).



INCREASED FLEXIBILITY

- Providing rural flexibility for LEAs defined as “rural” under REAP (Rural Education Achievement Program)
 - With SEA approval, rural LEAs may modify one element of the turnaround or transformation model, if the modification still meets the intent and purpose of the original element
- Eliminating the rule of nine, which limited the number of schools that could implement the transformation model
- Clarifying the timeline under which previously implemented interventions may continue as part of a SIG intervention



UPDATED REPORTING AND POSTING REQUIREMENTS

- Leading indicator data replaced “Truants” with “Chronic Absenteeism.”
- SEAs must post all approved LEA application amendments and original applications.
- SEAs must post Tier III applications.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS: LEA AWARDS

- An LEA must serve each Tier I and Tier II school it has the capacity to serve before serving Tier III schools.
- An LEA must serve each Priority school it has the capacity to serve prior to serving Focus schools.
- An SEA without sufficient funds to make awards for every Tier I or Tier II school, or Priority school, that its LEAs have the commitment and capacity to serve may use other factors to prioritize funding of schools.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Notice of Final Requirements and FY 2015/2016 SIG Application
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html>
- Updated Frequently Asked Questions/SIG Guidance
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/legislation.html>
- The Center on School Turnaround
<http://centeronschoolturnaround.org/>
- Contact your Office of State Support Program Officers



QUESTIONS?

