



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234
Office of P-12 Education

Office of Accountability
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To: District Superintendents, Superintendent of Focus Districts, and Title I Coordinators
From: Roberto Reyes 
Subject: Update on 2013-14 1003(a) Title I School Improvement Grants
Date: September 2013

The following is updated information regarding the 2013-14 1003(a) Title I School Improvement Grants (SIG(a)). Focus Districts are eligible to apply for two SIG(a) in 2013-14. Districts must submit applications by September 30, 2013 or follow the instructions below to request an extension to apply. **New applications will not be accepted after December 31, 2013**, but districts may amend approved grants to add new activities until June 30, 2014. Amendments to adjust expenditures for approved activities can be accepted at any time during the project period.

I. 2013-14 Title I School Improvement Grant Section 1003(a) – Leadership-STEM

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/currentapps.html#1003a-2013-14>

The Leadership-STEM SIG(a) must be used to develop partnerships with Higher Education Institutions (IHE), Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), education research organizations and/or local business and industry to implement the following activities:

1. Provide training and support for school leaders (principals, assistant principals, superintendents and curriculum leaders) with the implementation of Annual Personnel Performance Reviews in Title I Focus and Priority Schools,
2. Provide training and support for school leaders with the implementation of rigorous curricular and instructional practices aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards, and
3. Provide enrichment programs in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) for at risk students (Level 1 & 2).

Partnerships must be clearly identified, and leadership activities should focus on support for school leaders, not teacher training. Teacher training and other school improvement requirements can be supported through the Basic SIG(a) (see below).

PLEASE NOTE: The application deadline for this grant was June 21, but we can accept applications until the end of this year. Districts that missed the deadline should submit their applications by September 30, 2013 or request an extension via e-mail to SIGA@mail.nysed.gov. Please **DO NOT CALL** or send letters for an extension. Extensions past September 30 require justification for the request with an anticipated date for submission. NYSED has limited staff to review these grants, so please submit your applications as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for review and approval of all activities.

II. 2013-14 Title I School Improvement Grant Section 1003(a) – Basic

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/currentapps.html#1003a>

The Basic SIG(a) should be used to support required school improvement activities:

1. Conduct district and school level reviews using the Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness (DTSDE). This includes costs for mandated training, release time for staff to participate in reviews and administration of required parent, staff or student surveys in Title I Focus and Priority schools.
2. Hire an Outside Educational Expert (OEE) to help conduct district-led reviews, and revise or implement improvement plans. (Optional - See note below.)
3. Develop or revise District Comprehensive Improvement and/or School Comprehensive Education Plans (DCIP/SCEP), and
4. Implement activities from approved DCIP/SCEPs, including goals related to preparing Priority Schools for implementation of one of the four federal intervention models: Turnaround, Transformation, Restart or Closure.

The application deadline is September 30, but districts may request an extension via e-mail to SIGA@mail.nysed.gov. Please DO NOT CALL or send letters for an extension. Extensions past September 30 require justification for the request with an anticipated date for submission.

PLEASE NOTE: For 2013-14 and 2014-15 NYSED is contracting with a vendor to provide the required OEEs for all state-led DTSDE Integrated Intervention Team (IIT) reviews. Districts have the option of requesting that an additional OEE selected by the district be assigned as an additional reviewer on any IIT review.

Districts are encouraged to continue to identify and utilize OEEs to assist in conducting district-led DTSDE reviews, and to assist in the development and implementation of the District Comprehensive Improvement Plans (DCIP) and School Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEP). Districts may use their Basic SIG(a) funds to support OEE activities in Title I schools, and OEEs funded with 1003(a) must continue to participate in NYSED mandated training. Consultants who do not participate in the NYSED mandated training may also be appropriate for SIG(a) activities such as implementing specific DCIP or SCEP goals (Activity #4), but their services should not be included as OEE services in the Program Narrative Chart (Activity #2).

The June RFP #TA10 field memo provides additional information about 2013-14 OEE activities and funding: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/documents/dtsderfpmemo0612131.pdf>.

Please continue to check for more Accountability updates at:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/memos.html>.

Questions concerning the information contained in this memo may be directed to:
SIGA@mail.nysed.gov.

cc: Ira Schwartz
Stephen Earley