

1003(a) and RttT School Innovation Fund Grant (SIF) School-based On-site Visits

Purpose

The purpose of the on-site visit is to gauge the extent to which SIF schools are meeting their expected results and complying with SIF requirements.

Overarching Questions Guiding the Visit

1. Does the school climate appear to be safe and conducive to learning?
2. How well does the school principal articulate her/his vision and key strategies for turning around the school?
3. What are the early results observed by school leadership and how well do they predict the likelihood of meeting school goals?
4. How well do the Lead Partner or Partner Consortium and district articulate their efforts, including the use of data, to show they are working together to improve student achievement?
5. What evidence is readily available supporting the implementation of the selected whole school design framework?

Methods of Data Collection

NYSED STO staff will collect data to inform these questions through school walk-through observations and the school leader interview. Data will also be collected through conversations with teachers, Lead Partner/Partner Consortium, and/or supporting partners, if these conversations occur during the on-site visit. On-site visits may last between two and three hours.

Methods of Data Analysis

Notes from the on-site visit will be analyzed from the lens of the currently approved SIF plan and the related tenets of the Diagnostic Tool for District and School Effectiveness. Data gathered will be analyzed to the extent that they converge on conclusions about the five overarching questions.

Reporting

A summary report will identify conclusions drawn from the visit and if warranted, identify any action items for the LEA or school. The report will be shared with the district and school leadership and will become a part of a portfolio of evidence used to support Commissioner's decisions about continued SIF funding, school accountability status, registration, and continued intervention in Priority Schools. The data from these reviews may also be reported in whole or in part to the New York State Board of Regents and the United States Department of Education as a part of their ongoing efforts to ensure all students have the opportunity for a sound and basic education and achieve college and career ready standards.