

CONTINUATION PLAN

School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g)
2015-16 Guidance

Maximum Funding Available

For the 2015-16 project period, LEAs are eligible for up to \$500,000 for each eligible Cohort 5 school, \$1,000,000 for each SIG Cohort 4 school, \$500,000 for each SIG Cohort 3 school, and/or \$250,000 for each Cohort 2 school - commensurate to the needs of the school, number of students served, phase of implementation and inclusive of district-level, central costs.

Tentative funding amounts for future fund years are as follows:

2016-17:

Cohort 3 – 5th year - \$250,000

Cohort 4 – 4th year - \$500,000

Cohort 5 – 3rd year - \$500,000

2017-18

Cohort 4 – 5th year - \$250,000

Cohort 5 – 4th year - \$500,000

2018-19

Cohort 5 – 5th year - \$250,000

All grants, regardless of type or dollar amount, are subject to further review, monitoring, and audit to ensure compliance. NYSED has the right to recoup funds if the approved activities are not performed and/or the funds are expended inappropriately.

Application Submission and Approval Timeline

Continuing plan issued:	March 25, 2015
Complete plans due:	May 22, 2015
NYSED review:	May 22, to June 19, 2015
June Performance Review Calls:	Week of June 22, 2015
Final Determinations:	June 26, 2015

Documents for Submission (for each eligible school)

- Continuation Plan
- Budget narrative to explain and justify proposed district and school-level activities
- 2015-2016 FS-10 for proposed district and school-level activities
- Updated Attachments B and D
- Academic Achievement Data (data demonstrating the degree to which academic achievement targets have been met, or are on a trajectory for being met)

Allowable Costs

All proposed SIG costs for the 2015-2016 project period must be reasonable, directly connected to the SIG model being implemented, and in direct alignment with the existing SIG plan. All proposals must

contain clear explanation and strong justification for how costs are connected to building the capacity of the teachers, leaders, staff, and stakeholders in the SIG school, or to providing student access to high quality instruction and/or academic enrichment.

LEAs are discouraged from budgeting for supplies and materials (e.g., smart boards, I-pads, computers, computer software, general office supplies, etc.) that appear to be independent or ancillary to the organizational or pedagogical functioning of the SIG plan, or that appear to be budgeted merely as a means to draw down funds, or appear to be supplanting.

If an LEA chooses to budget for supplies and materials (e.g., smart boards, I-pads, computers, computer software, etc.), it must demonstrate the cost to be inextricably linked to identified needs, direct capacity building for adults, and/or instructional access and opportunity for students.

The purchase of equipment (defined as equipment items having a unit value of \$5,000 or more with a useful life of more than one year) is not allowed. In addition, SIG funding directed at district-level administration and support activities may be no greater than ten percent (10%) of the total funding for project period.

NYSED School Turnaround Office (STO) Review and Approval Process

Staff from NYSED STO will review the Continuation Plan in terms of the fidelity of the proposed activities to the SIG model being implemented and to ensure that the budgeted costs are reasonable and appropriate. During the June progress monitoring calls with district staff, NYSED STO may request that LEAs provide additional program and/or budget clarification or justification prior to approval. NYSED STO staff will eliminate any budgeted costs that are determined to be unreasonable, non-allowable or too loosely connected to the SIG plan, which will be reflected in the approved budget amount in the grant award notice issued by the NYSED Grants Finance Office.

Submission

Complete plans must be submitted electronically to the LEA's STO liaison and to the School Turnaround Office mailbox at TURNAROUND@NYSED.GOV . In addition, one original plan plus one copy must be mailed by postal service to:

New York State Education Department
School Turnaround Office – 5N EB Mezzanine
89 Washington Ave
Albany, New York 12234
Attn: Continuation Plan Application