SIG QUESTIONS RECEIVED AFTER 2-7-14

Q1.   We received a SIG grant two years ago. With the new guidelines are we eligible to apply again now?

Answer: Only schools that first received SIG for the 2010-2011 school year are again eligible to apply for SIG. However, the "Method of Award" section of the SIG RFP makes it clear that any district that has received a SIG grant in the past would be in Priority 3 for awards.

Q2.   If a school is designated as a Local Assistance Plan school, but not a Priority School, is the district eligible to apply for the grant?

Answer: No, a Local Assistance Plan school is not eligible to apply for either SIF or SIG funding. Only schools designated as Priority Schools are eligible.

Q.3   Does the eligibility revision for 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG) Round 5 also apply to the School Innovation Fund Grant (SIF) Round 3?

Answer: The eligibility revision makes it possible for schools receiving SIF round 1 or SIF round 2 to apply for a SIG. However, the "Method of Award" section of the SIG RFP makes it clear that any district that has received a SIF grant would still be in Priority 3 for awards. The SIF 3 RFP Eligibility requirements section was not revised.

Q4:   Current guidance indicates that Priority Schools that have already completed a full 3-year SIG are not counted toward the LEA's total number of schools for purposes of calculating the Rule of 9. Come July 1, 2014, our district will have seven schools implementing active SIG grants, with another five Priority schools eligible for new SIG funding. Please confirm that as many as half (or six of the twelve total, if the additional five are funded) may implement the Transformation model.

Answer: The district would be able to implement the Transformation model in half of all of its current Priority schools. If there are currently 12 Priority schools, no more than six total could implement the Transformation model.

See H-21b of the Updated SIG Guidance located at
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/legislation.html

Q5: For schools implementing the Turnaround model, are we required to replace 50% of *all* staff, 50% of all *instructional* staff, or 50% of *core* instructional staff. If the latter is the case, who constitutes core instructional staff?

Answer : See B-3 of the Updated SIG Guidance located at http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/legislation.html

B-3. What is the definition of "staff" as that term is used in the discussion of a turnaround model?

As used in the discussion of a turnaround model, "staff" includes all instructional staff, but an LEA has discretion to determine whether or not "staff" also includes non-instructional staff. An LEA may decide that it is appropriate to include non-instructional staff in the definition of "staff," as all members of a school's staff contribute to the school environment and are important to the success of a turnaround model.

In determining the number of staff members that may be rehired, an LEA should count the total number of staff positions (however staff is defined) within the school in which the model is being implemented, including any positions that may be vacant at the time of the implementation. For example, if a school has a total of 100 staff positions, only 90 of which are filled at the time the model is implemented, the LEA may rehire 50 staff members; the LEA is not limited to rehiring only 45 individuals (50 percent of the filled staff positions). (See G-1c for additional information on how an LEA should determine the number of staff members that must be replaced when taking advantage of the flexibility to continue or complete interventions that have been implemented within the last two years.) (Modified for FY 2010 Guidance)

Q6: The guidance indicates that no greater than 10% of the total maximum funding request may be directed at district-level administration and support activities for each period. Is this maximum percentage inclusive of Indirect Cost?

Answer: The 10% cap **does not** include indirect cost. Indirect cost can be included on budget documents, in addition to the 10% spent on district-level administration.

Q7: In the district-level application, under Section B. Operational Autonomies, what is the definition of "program selection" that the district should use as the basis of its response?

Answer: In this regard, "program selection" is referring to the selection of instructional programs.