

**School Improvement Grant (SIG)  
Conference Call Transcript  
March 17, 2010  
1:00 p.m.**

Last conference call: March 4, 2010

SBE has acted on several items related to SIG. We are preparing to forward our application to the USDE.

**Three purposes today**

1. Review recent actions taken on March 11, 2010.
2. Next Steps and timelines in the SIG application process.
3. Time for Q&A.

**Those present**

Deb Sigman, Fred Balcolm, Theresa Garcia, executive secretary of the SBE, Rachel Perry, Julie Baltazar of RSDSS, and Michelle \_\_\_\_\_, of the charter unit at CDE.

**Board Action**

Board approved five waivers on operating the school improvement grant:

1. Timeline extending the application of funding to three years.
2. Extension waiver, allows turnaround or restart model to get new PI start.
3. Waiver on the schoolwide threshold.
4. The N size waiver consistent with accountability workbook provisions.
5. Waive the definition of the Tier 2 schools as secondary schools eligible for but not receiving Title I funds.

The board approved the Tier 1-3 list. The Tier 1 and 2 schools represent the lowest achieving schools. The Tier 3 schools are all in PI but are not in the 5%.

The board approved the application to the USDE and the application that will go out to the field.

**The next steps**

We are talking to USDE to get clarity on questions from the field. This call is to provide you with as much TA as possible. We are preparing the FAQ to be posted at the end of this week. We've posted definitions and lists on the website.

CA will not fund Tier 3 schools until all applications for Tier 1-2 are funded. They believe the funding for Tier 3 will be limited. It will be competitive. In developing an application for Tier 3 schools we want a very clear presentation of the models or another plan that is supported by evidence that you are likely to move the school forward.

## Q&A

Transformation Model: If we're starting in the 10 – 11 school year, how far back is the two years for not replacing the principal?

Fred: The requirement to replace the principal is up to two years prior to the receipt of funding.

Terry Wolf, Maricopa USD: CA is now applying for the SIG funds. The funding is not in place?

Deb: These funds should be available. We need an application by June 1. The SBE would approve them at the July board meeting.

Jonathan Greenberg, Perris Union HSD: Where is the 10 % rule, and why are urban poor schools treated differently. Many urban schools that are eligible for Tier 1 are not identified.

Deb: The 10 % rule has to do with the SBX5 4 and has to do with open enrollment and trigger. The 10% rule doesn't apply to the schools for SIG.

Jonathan: There are high schools with lower APIs and AYPs and they're not identified.

Deb: We looked at a list of requirements: AYP ranked by percent proficient for students on assessments used for AYP. For HS that means the CAHSEE. We looked at three years worth of data and that gave us the ranking. We also asked if any of those schools had grown 50 points in five years. We looked at incremental growth from one year to the next. It had to be a net gain. We also used the N size of 100. You may be able to look at other schools and we can talk about it.

Jonathan: What is the Exit Criteria?

Deb: We created this list to be responsive to the SIG. We know that there's a second round of funding. We'd need to calculate a new list which would mean that any schools that accepting SIG this year would be removed from the list. No exit criteria for SIG. A number of states have asked this question. The SIG grant is about implementing the models for three years. The intention is you implement something and see results in three years.

Hayward USD: Our district is exploring three models. If we do the closure, can the funds follow the students?

Fred: The purpose of the funds for closure is to address the costs of closing the school. The funding is not meant to follow the students.

Does it entail a separate application for each school?

Fred: One application per district, addressing the needs of each school. Even if the model is the same for each school, you'll need to justify the model for each school and explain your action steps.

Hayward: We identified a school as a school for restructuring. Can we include this school to get funding?

Fred: If you're a Tier 3 school you can apply to do so.

If we chose to close a school by August can we include funding for closing the school?

Fred: Yes.

Oscar Duenas, Fontana USD: I know the SBX5 is silent about a deadline to implement, what are the timelines.

Deb: Nothing is in the statute. It is very unclear.

Roger Galese, \_\_\_\_\_ School District: Is there anything spelling out the requirements for the new principal?

Fred: The typical Title I HQT requirement. Otherwise, no.

Julie Quinn: A Tier 3 school is applying for the SIG. They are closing and opening it up again with a new name and have the faculty reapply. They realize they may not get funding for their SIG Grant. Could they go back and restart with a new PI timeline?

No: If they closed the school then that school is gone. The waiver only applies to those schools funded through the grant.

Janette Parker Charter School: We already have had an HP Grant that was very focused on the transformational model. We'd already done many of the elements implemented last year. I don't agree that we should have been placed on the list.

Jane Russo, Santa Ana USD: A week ago we had three schools identified in our district and we understood and supported their identification. Since we have six high schools, two additional high schools means we have to restructure all four high schools, we will demolish the restructure school and have to transfer students between schools. We'd like to bring the three initially identified schools and then the other three go in the following year.

Deb: Are the original three on the Tier 1 or 2?

Russo: Yes.

Deb: You can apply for some of these schools and not all. We would have to recalculate next year's formula so they may not appear.

Russo: We heard that there could be a district-led charter? What is the resource for this? Would we still qualify for SIG if they're charters?

Yes.

Theresa: It has to be a true charter school, not in name only.

Jane: We would do it the right way. Where do we get the information on it?

Michelle (CDE Charter School Consultant): Pros and cons on starting a district led charter. We already have some independent charters. A district can operate a charter.

Russo: So a high school could be a true charter school owned and operated by the school district. We would pull up the regular charter regulations and apply it to the district? Does it have to have separate board of directors?

Theresa: The SBE will look to see if there is a level of autonomy to see if there is hiring authority etc. Michelle's phone number is (916) 322-1755 in the charter unit.

Fred: The SBE has the authority to adjust the amount of the allocation up or down. It varies depending on the activities. A transformation could be differentially funded over the years.

Question: If we write the grant and it's not funded then are we required to follow up on the activities? Let's say that I put into the application I put an academic coach for a grade span and the funding is half of what I asked for. I don't know that I can back out of the model – but the specifics in the model.

CDE: We'll need to do some research on this.

Patricia, Escuela Popular Learning Center: We're on the Grad list only. We have less than a 100 valid test scores for our graduation rate. So why are we being included?

Deb: We need to talk with you off line.

Patricia: Is there an appeals process?

Theresa: There is no appeals process, but we want to talk with you about the formula and its appropriateness.

Patricia: If you don't go after the SIG money is there exit criteria for graduation rate?

Deb. No.

Question: In replacing the principal it's two years prior to the implementation or start of school?

Question: On the Transformation Model. Does it include Tier one and two?

Yes?

Missed the question.

Answer: If you have more than 9 schools you may only do the transformational model at half the schools. You must expend all your funds each year. No carryover at end of year 3.

Russ Frank, RCOE: Is there carryover for years one and two?

Deb: We'll need to ask the feds.

Sandra Espinoza: Transformation model needs to be in place in 10-11 school year. Do all elements need to be in place?

Answer: Principal needs to be replaced and more time in the schedule.

Sandra: Are we talking more days or more periods?

Answer: It could be that and could be others based on the input from the stakeholders. Can be a longer school day, year, collaboration with your community is vital.

Jim Murphy, Bucknell Union SD: This sounds so restrictive especially a one school district. The restart is the funding base and timeline. Have you given thought to this?

Theresa: It has not been a topic with USDE. One size does not fit all. We'll follow up on this.

Rick Neil, Antelope Valley USD: The LEA application is June 1, but when will they be available? The draft application is on the website now.

Answer: We are making some slight modifications. Once it's done we'll get it posted and then send it when it is approved by the feds.

Sandy Gonerig, San Bernardino CUSD: On the nine or more schools we have 7 in Tier 1 and 4 in Tier 2. Do we count them together in calculating the number of schools that are allowed to do the transformation model? (Only 50% can do the transformation model in a situation like this).

Answer: Yes

Question: On the turnaround model 50% of staff – just teaching staff?

Answer: That's a local decision.

Statement: We had one of our schools on the Tier 2 list that is receiving Title I funds.

Response: That list is now mixed with Title 1 and Non Title 1 schools.

Frank, RCOE: What is the consequence once you start on a model and the bargaining unit will not satisfactorily bargain for the full implementation of union-related issues?

Julie B. If you start down the road with a model you should have assurance that the union will negotiate certain items. You would have to reapply for a new model to SBE and get it approved.

Frank, RCOE: What is the criteria for selecting Tier 3 schools which may apply? In other words, there are far too many Tier 3 schools to fund them all, what will be the determining criteria for which you'll fund (i.e. PI status, low performance on ELA/Math, other?)

Frank: If a district doesn't apply this year and doesn't apply for the following year, what is the consequence for the district not implementing?

Deb: The state legislation is silent on this.

Deb: We will have a conference call in the next week or so to give technical assistance to districts in Tier 3 on this question.

Frank: Should they be applying in June?

Deb: Yes.

David Lindsay: Less 60% grad rate that each year for four consecutive years?

Enrique, Compton USD: In the transformation model, we'd need to come up with an evaluation system – ahead of getting our plan approved. We can't expect to have this completely bargained. Is there clean up legislation pending?

Deb: We know that there is confusion.

Tony Warwick, Belleview USD: We will likely not apply. When would the new list come out?

Deb: The federal new year starts October 1. But we wouldn't even know about the cohort until then. The list should come out earlier than this year.

Warwick: Is the API a moving five year window?

Yes.

Question: If we turn in a plan on the turnaround model but don't turn in a grant, could we get a restart on PI status?

Fred: No. You must get funded.