



Overview of Vermont SIG (School Improvement Grant) Award, Reporting, and Review Process

(In all instances for the purposes of this grant, the LEA refers to the SU/D)

1) The process and timeline for approving LEA(SU/D) applications.

- Applications will be accepted at any time between the date of USED approval and June 15th with priority review for supervisory unions/districts with Tier I and II schools. Because funds must be prioritized to Tier I and II schools and the VTDOE desires to make funding available to all Tier I, II and III schools as soon as practicable, Superintendents with Tier I and II schools in their supervisory union/district are required to submit a letter of intent to participate no later than May 15th, with a full application due no later than June 15, 2010. Applications will be approved and funds made available on a rolling basis for Tier I and II schools (and Tier III schools in LEAs with Tier I and II schools.) A determination on all applications (Tier I, II and III) will be made no later than June 30, 2010.
- Funds will become available as applications are approved.
- Additional applications from Tier III schools will be permitted as funds allow beyond the June 15th deadline.

2) LEA Monitoring and the process for reviewing an LEA's annual goals for student achievement for its Tier I, II and III schools.

- The VTDOE School Improvement Support teams working with Tier I, II, and III schools will review student achievement scores annually with the SU School Support team.
- **Progress toward School Improvement Grant Implementation Plan goals will be assessed and reported quarterly by the SU School Support team to their designated VTDOE School Support coach.**
- Progress toward School Improvement Grant Implementation Plan goals will be assessed and reported bi-annually by the VTDOE School Support team working with that SU.
- Additional fidelity measures and evaluations including self evaluations will be used in determining progress toward implementation as is indicated by the selected intervention.
- Intensive technical assistance will be provided by the SEA school support coach on at minimum a monthly basis for Tier I and II schools and a quarterly basis for Tier III schools. This intensive technical assistance may include site visits, systems change guidance, support and training, implementation coaching, and fidelity checks that may include self-assessments as well as external reviews including interviews with students, faculty and administrative leaders, parents and community members.
- On-going fiscal monitoring through review of expenditure reports and fund requests will be conducted in tandem by the VTDOE School Improvement Support team and financial office.

- 3) How the SEA will determine whether to renew an LEA's School Improvement Grant if one or more Tier I, II, III schools in the LEA are not meeting those goals and making progress on the leading indicators in section III of the final requirements.**
- VT DOE staff will review LEA data provided for achievement and leading indicators, and will require revisions to the application as necessary.
 - VT DOE staff will review local formative and summative student data in the areas of mathematics and language arts.
 - VT DOE will also review the LEA's progress towards goals prioritizing completion of required activities for Tier I and II schools as a measure for determining continued funding.
 - LEA participation in VTDOE school improvement events, training, and reporting; communication and collaboration with VTDOE School Support Coaches will also be considered in determinations for continued funding.
- 4) How the SEA will determine whether to renew an LEA's School Improvement Grant if one or more Tier III schools in the LEA are not meeting those goals.**
- VT DOE staff will review LEA data provided for achievement and leading indicators and will require revisions to the application as necessary.
 - VT DOE staff will review local formative and summative student data in the areas of mathematics and language arts.
 - VT DOE will also review the LEA's progress towards goals prioritizing completion of required activities for Tier I and II schools as a measure for determining continued funding.
 - LEA participation in VTDOE school improvement events, training, and reporting; communication and collaboration with VTDOE School Support Coaches will also be considered in determinations for continued funding.
- 5) If the SEA intends to take over any Tier I or Tier II schools, identify those schools and indicate the school intervention model the SEA will implement in each school.**
- The VTDOE does not intend to take over any Tier I, II or III schools at this time.
- 6) The SEA will monitor any LEA that receives a school improvement grant for a Tier I or Tier II school as described below:**
- The VTDOE School Improvement Support Teams working with Tier I, II, and III schools will review student achievement scores annually with the SU School Support team.
 - Progress toward School Improvement Grant Implementation Plan goals will be assessed and reported quarterly by the SU School Support team.
 - Progress toward School Improvement Grant Implementation Plan goals will be assessed and reported bi-annually by the VTDOE School Improvement Support team working with that SU.
 - Additional fidelity measures and evaluations including self evaluations will be used in determining progress toward implementation as is indicated by the selected intervention.
- Intensive technical assistance will be provided by the VTDOE school support coach on at minimum a monthly basis for Tier I and II schools and a quarterly basis for Tier III schools. This intensive technical assistance may include site visits, systems change guidance, support and training, implementation coaching, and fidelity checks that

may include self-assessments as well as external reviews including interviews with students, faculty and administrative leaders, parents and community members.

- On-going fiscal monitoring through review of expenditure reports and fund requests will be conducted in tandem by the VTDOE School Improvement Support team and financial office.

7) The SEA will use the following criteria to prioritize School Improvement Grants to LEAs if the SEA does not have sufficient school improvement funds to serve all eligible schools for which each LEA applies.

- Funds will be prioritized first to Tier I and Tier II schools.
- Funds for Tier III schools will be prioritized to those LEAs with Tier I or Tier II schools in this order –
 - 1) LEAs serving Tier I and/or Tier II schools who also have Tier III schools.
 - 2) LEAs serving Tier III schools but having no Tier I or Tier II schools to serve –
 - Based on the strength of their application including their commitment to using elements of the transformation model in their school improvement plan, their capacity and evidence of follow through on current and past school improvement efforts.
 - 3) LEAs with Tier II and Tier III schools but choosing not to serve Tier II schools.
 - 4) LEAs with Tier I and Tier III schools who choose not to serve Tier I schools receive no funds.