

# State use of SIG funds: addendum

April 2010

# Summary

---

States have raised important questions about the 1003g School Improvement Grant (SIG) requirements, so Mass Insight took these FAQ's straight to our sources at the U.S. Department of Education (USED).

This addendum to the March 2010 publication, "State Use of SIG Funds," will address the following topics:

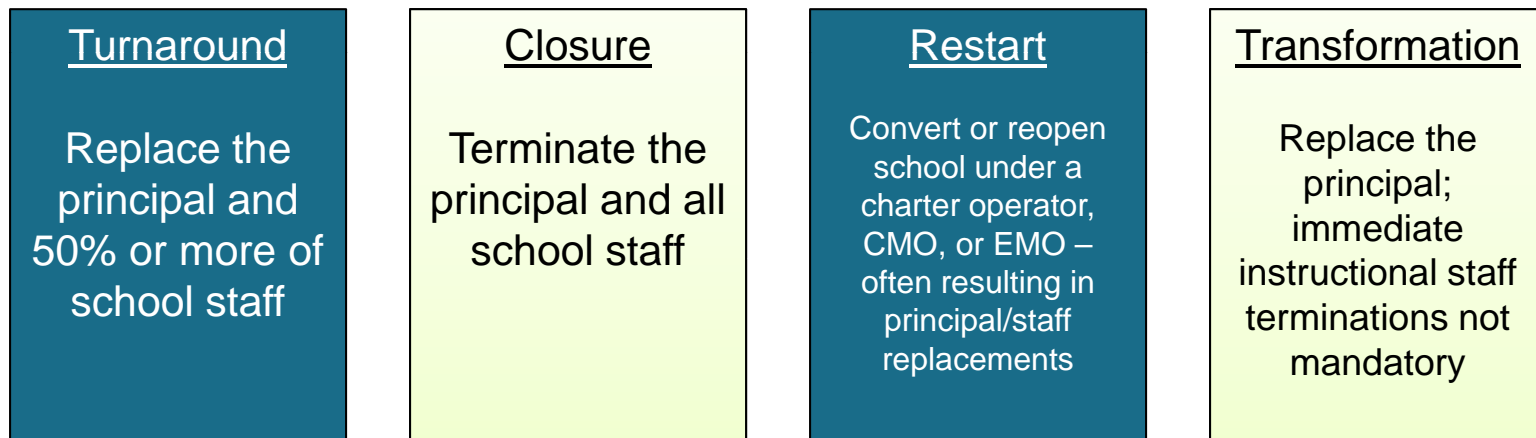
- Timelines for replacing school instructional staff
- CMO/EMO autonomies under the school restart option
- Other school restart clarifications

# How can a state implement the turnaround option if the deadline has passed to dismiss staff for the 2010-11 school year?

---

As they apply for FY09 SIG sub-grants, districts must implement one of four intervention models for each Tier I and Tier II school that they commit to serve.

Of these options, the turnaround and closure interventions will require the termination of some or all of a school's staff:



Some states and districts have passed their legal deadlines to dismiss teachers for the upcoming school year.

USED confirms that as long as staff replacement announcements are made in the 2010 calendar year, districts can still choose the turnaround and school closure models when applying for FY09 SIG sub-grants.

# How can the state influence a district's implementation of the restart model?

---

**USED notes that for schools restarting under a charter operator, CMO or EMO, states have latitude to assess whether or not the district has given the management company sufficient authority.**

States should assess a management organization's operational autonomy based on the following criteria:

**People:** Authority over hiring, placement, compensation, and work rules

**Time:** Scheduling authority to institute a longer day and/or longer year

**Money:** Control over the school-level budget

**Program:** Flexibility to shape the program to students' needs

# What does and does not constitute a school restart?

---

**Q:** Does starting a charter school in the vicinity of a Tier I or Tier II school fall under the restart model?

Not necessarily. A new school is considered a “restart” only if it enrolls – within the grades served by the new school – all former students of the closed school who wish to attend the new school.

**Q:** Must a restart school serve all grades from the school undergoing the intervention?

No. An LEA may allow a restart operator to take over one grade at a time. If an operator takes over some but not all grades, the LEA may use SIG funds to implement one of the other three interventions – turnaround, transformation or closure – in the grades not taken over by the restart operator.

**Q:** May a restart school require that students meet certain academic standards for admission?

No. However, a provider may require all students who wish to attend the restart school to sign agreements covering student behavior, attendance, or other commitments related to academic performance.

# Get involved

---

For more information on how your state can utilize Title I School Improvement Grants more effectively, please contact Mass Insight at:

**Mass Insight Education & Research Institute**  
**18 Tremont Street, Suite 930 • Boston, MA 02108 • 617-778-1500**  
**[jshea@massinsight.org](mailto:jshea@massinsight.org)**

To learn more about “The Turnaround Challenge” and our Partnership Zone Initiative, please visit our website at **[www.massinsight.org](http://www.massinsight.org)**.

*The presentation and related documents are the result of a research and development process led by Mass Insight with the support of various partners.*

*It should be used in conjunction with the Main Report, “The Turnaround Challenge: Why America’s best opportunity to dramatically improve student achievement lies in our worst performing schools,” and a variety of other resources we have developed and distributed.*