

Evaluating School Improvement Grants (SIG): Student Outcomes, School Climate, Teacher Perceptions, Administrator Perceptions

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Introduction of SIG


- SIG are funded through the US Department of Education to **priority and focus schools** to improve student learning outcomes and reduce achievement gaps.
- **Priority schools** are among the lowest 5% of Title 1 schools in the state based on achievement of all students.
- **Focus schools** are among Title 1 schools with the largest within-school gaps between the highest achieving subgroups and the lowest achieving subgroups.
- Schools focus on specific areas: **instructional reform (data use), teacher effectiveness, principal effectiveness, learning time, community-oriented schools, and operational flexibility.**



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SC SIG Overview


Cohorts	Schools	Years
Cohort 1	19	2010-2015
Cohort 2	8	2011-2016
Cohort 3	3	2015-2020
Cohort 4	10	2016-2021



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SIG Reform Models


Model	Description
Closure	Close school, reassign students to higher achieving schools
Early Learning	Expand high-quality preschool, include joint planning time for educators, follow Transformation policies except increased learning time
Evidence-based Whole School Reform	Use an Institute for Education Sciences approved approach; focus on school leadership, teaching, and learning in at least one content area; provide student non-academic support and promote family and community engagement
Restart	Close school, reopen as a charter or under auspices of approved educational organization
State-determined Intervention	Not applicable in South Carolina
Transformation	Replace principal, provide rigorous staff evaluation and development plan, institutes comprehensive instructional reform, increases learning time, and provide greater flexibility for school operations
Turnaround	Replace principal, rehire no more than 50% of existing staff, provide principal autonomy, and develop additional reform strategies




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Evaluation Methods

Aspect	Evaluation Method
Student Outcomes	Analyzing SC Ready ELA and math assessment results for each school Comparing SC Ready results between SIG schools and matched non-SIG schools
School Climate	Analyzing climate survey data from school report card Comparing climate survey data between SIG schools and matched non-SIG schools
Teacher Perceptions	Administration and analysis of SIG teacher survey for perceptions of SIG implementation and impact
Administrator Perceptions	Administration and analysis of SIG administrator survey for perceptions of SIG implementation and impact



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- ### Evaluation Results
- **Student Outcomes**
 - **School Climate**
 - **Teacher Perceptions**
 - **Administrator Perceptions**
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Student Outcomes

Percentage of Students Who Meet and Exceed in SC Ready ELA

School	2016	2017	2018
School 1	21.5	28.6	25.9
School 2	20.9	17.7	17.8
School 3	7.3	4.2	10.6
School 4	5.8	7.8	8.9
School 5	16.8	14.5	15.9
School 6	60.2	62.2	54.4
School 7	41.7	38.6	32.3
School 8	21.3	17.1	25.3
School 9	19.1	20.6	22.1
School 10	13.4	15.3	15.1
School 11	29.2	25.4	32.7
School 12	4.2	7.7	8.0
School 13	12.5	13.6	13.5



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Percentage of Students Who Meet and Exceed in SC Ready Mathematics


School	2016	2017	2018
School 1	33.9	30.2	32.1
School 2	23.1	11.4	18.2
School 3	7.3	6.6	17.2
School 4	8.4	8.8	8.3
School 5	16.8	16.3	23.1
School 6	57.2	62.8	65.0
School 7	49.1	34.4	35.5
School 8	13.3	16.1	27.5
School 9	25.3	34.1	39.7
School 10	15.8	25.2	18.0
School 11	27.9	25.6	29.6
School 12	4.2	9.6	12.3
School 13	12.2	13.5	7.7



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**Student Outcomes Comparison between SIG Schools and Non-SIG Schools
2016-2018**


SIG Schools	English	Math	Non-SIG Schools	English	Math
School 1	4.4	-1.8	School 1	6.8	-5.9
School 2	-3.1	-4.9	School 2	1.6	1.6
School 3	3.3	9.9	School 3	9.7	1.5
School 4	3.1	-0.1	School 4	-8.1	-11.8
School 5	-0.9	6.3	School 5	-5.9	0.6
School 6	-5.8	7.8	School 6	3.7	9.4
School 7	-9.4	-13.6	School 7	-1.1	-1.5
School 8	4.0	14.2	School 8	1.6	1.6
School 9	3.0	14.4	School 9	-2.8	13.0
School 10	1.7	2.2	School 10	-5.7	9.4
School 11	3.5	1.7	School 11	2.0	2.0
School 12	3.8	8.1	School 12	-3.9	2.3
School 13	1.0	-4.5	School 13	2.3	9.4



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Student Outcomes Summary

- For SC Ready English, 9 SIG schools had larger percentages of students who were in Exceeds and Meets expectations.
- For SC Ready mathematics, 8 SIG schools had larger percentages of students who were in Exceeds and Meets expectations.
- For SIG schools, students' progress in English seemed to be small, with less than 5% of increase of students in Exceeds and Meets expectations.
- For SIG schools, students' progress in math varied, and three schools had the largest increase of students in Exceeds and Meets expectations (10% or more).
- While comparing student learning outcomes between SIG schools and non-SIG schools, we did not find notable differences.




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School Climate

Percentage of Teachers Who are Satisfied with Learning Environment


School	2016	2017	2018
School 1	95.5	85.4	69.5
School 2	85.1	80.0	83.3
School 3	26.1	61.9	45.9
School 4	80.7	27.3	85.3
School 5	85.0	90.3	97.8
School 6	77.8	87.1	92.8
School 7	80.0	91.3	76.7
School 8	86.7	100.0	75.0
School 9	89.5	88.3	100.0
School 10	42.1	42.8	70.5
School 11	75.0	75.0	75.0
School 12	---	---	80.0
School 13	67.5	65.0	67.6



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School Climate Comparison Between SIG Schools and Non-SIG Schools 2016-2018

Satisfaction	Teachers		Students		Parents	
	SIG Schools	Non-SIG Schools	SIG Schools	Non-SIG Schools	SIG Schools	Non-SIG Schools
Learning environment	8/12	10/12	4/10	8/12	5/10	3/9
Social and physical environment	8/12	9/12	5/10	7/12	7/10	3/9
School-home relations	9/12	6/12	3/10	5/12	5/10	3/9



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School Climate Summary

- About 8-9 out of 12 SIG schools had larger percentages of **teachers** who reported satisfaction with school learning environment, school social and physical environment, and school-home relations.
- Comparatively, SIG school teachers seemed to report more satisfaction with school-home relations.
- About 3-5 out of 10 SIG schools had larger percentages of **students** who reported satisfaction with school learning environment, school social and physical environment, and school-home relations.
- Comparatively, students from the non-SIG schools seemed to report more satisfaction with school learning environment.
- About 5-7 out of 10 SIG schools had larger percentages of **parents** who reported satisfaction with school learning environment, school social and physical environment, and school-home relations.
- Comparatively, parents from the SIG schools seemed to report more satisfaction with school learning environment, school-home relations, and especially school social and physical environment.



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Teacher Perceptions

- A survey was conducted to understand perceptions of teachers on the impact and implementations of the SIG initiative in South Carolina.
- About 131 teachers from 7 SIG districts responded to the survey.
- About 75 (57.3%) had a Master's degree and 49 (37.4%) had a Bachelor's degree.
- About 76 teachers (58.0%) reported to have 10 or more years of experience in education, 26 teachers (19.9%) had between 4 and 9 years of experience in education, and 29 teachers (22.2%) were in their early career with 3 years or less of experience in education.



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Findings of Teacher Perceptions

Teachers' Overall Views of SIG Impact and Implementation

SIG Impact and Implementation	N	Mean
SIG impact (11 questions)	112	3.09
Teacher effectiveness (5 questions)	103	3.13
Principal effectiveness (4 questions)	95	3.11
Teacher professional development (10 questions)	104	3.33
School support (10 questions)	101	2.93



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Teachers' Views based on District

District	SIG Impact	Teacher Effectiveness	Principal Effectiveness	Teacher PD	School Support
District 1	2.75	3.30	3.10	3.34	2.83
District 2	3.16	3.17	3.25	3.33	3.15
District 3	3.43	2.48	2.47	3.20	3.16
District 4	2.97	3.18	3.30	3.31	2.86
District 5	2.56	2.89	2.61	3.16	2.47
District 6	3.28	3.21	3.25	3.50	2.93
District 7	3.21	3.27	3.22	3.14	2.98
Overall	3.09	3.13	3.11	3.33	2.93




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Teachers' Views based on Degree

Degree	SIG Impact	Teacher Effectiveness	Principal Effectiveness	Teacher PD	School Support
Bachelor or Below	3.11	3.19	3.26	3.37	2.85
Master or Higher	3.08	3.09	3.00	3.31	2.97
Overall	3.09	3.13	3.11	3.33	2.93

Teachers' Views based on Years of Experience in Education


Years of Experience	SIG Impact	Teacher Effectiveness	Principal Effectiveness	Teacher PD	School Support
0-3 Years	3.17	3.32	3.39	3.37	2.87
4-9 Years	3.09	3.20	3.17	3.23	2.92
10+ Years	3.07	3.04	3.01	3.35	2.95
Overall	3.09	3.13	3.11	3.33	2.93



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Administrator Perceptions

- A survey was conducted to understand perceptions of administrators on the impact and implementations of the SIG initiative in South Carolina.
- About 20 administrators from 9 districts responded to the survey.
- About 16 (80%) administrators had a doctorate or a Master's degree.
- About 19 (95%) administrators reported to have 10 or more years of experience in education.
- About 9 (45%) reported to have 0-3 years of experience in their current role.



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Findings of Administrator Perceptions

- Most administrators (more than 95%) agreed or strongly agreed that SIG will improve classroom instructional practices, teacher and principal effectiveness, student academic performance, student behavior, school learning environment, and school social environment.
- About 85% of the administrators agreed or strongly agreed that SIG will improve student non-academic support or enrichment, school physical environment, family engagement, and community engagement.
- Most administrators (more than 95%) indicated that their districts or schools sometimes or always use data to track individual student performance, as benchmark or interim assessment in English/language arts and mathematics, evaluate instructional programs, and inform and differentiate instruction.



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- Most administrators (more than 95%) indicated that their districts or schools sometimes or always use multiple performance measures to evaluate teacher effectiveness, and use student achievement growth to evaluate teacher effectiveness.
- About 70% of the administrators indicated that their districts or schools sometimes or always use teacher evaluation results to inform decisions about compensation.
- Most administrators (more than 95%) indicated that their districts or schools sometimes or always provide professional development focusing on understanding and addressing student learning needs, multiple-session events for teachers, involve educators working collaboratively.
- About 75% of the administrators indicated that their districts or schools sometimes or always provide financial incentives or more flexible work conditions to recruit, place, and retain staff.



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- Most administrators (more than 80%) indicated that their districts or schools implement policies or strategies related to parent and/or community engagement, develop and implement non-academic supports or enrichment programs for students.
- About 55% of the administrators indicated that their districts or schools integrate cultural sensitivity into the school environment.
- About 90% of the administrators indicated that their districts or schools establish schedules and implement strategies to increase learning time by offering after-school instruction.



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- Most administrators (more than 80%) of the school administrators indicated that the resources available, the current school mission, teachers, the capacity (time and training) of staff, the current school policies, the district administration, the parents, the students, current district policies are somewhat or very supportive in SIG implementation at the school.
- Few than half (47.4%) of school and district administrators indicated that their schools or districts have been successful in improving student academic achievement based on SIG funding.



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Next Step

- Summarize SIG impact and implementation using multiple methods of evaluation
- Analyze School APR documents
- Select a few schools that are successful in SIG implementation
- Select a few schools that need extra help in SIG implementation
- Conduct interviews with teachers and administrators about the successes and challenges in SIG implementation within the selected schools
- Provide specific support for individual schools



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Thank you!

Questions? Suggestions?



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