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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: August 11, 2017

SUBJECT: Unified School Improvement Grant (UniSIG) Funding for 2017-18

Contact Information:
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DPS: 2017-105

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year and in accordance with section 1003 of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Unified School Improvement Grant (UniSIG) will be utilized to serve students attending Title I schools identified for targeted (i.e., school grade of “D”) or comprehensive (i.e., school grade of “F” or two consecutive grades of “D”) support and improvement based on the most recent school grades release and students attending any public high school regardless of Title I status that has a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of 67 percent or less based on the most recently released data.

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the enactment and implementation of ESSA resulted in two Title I grant programs being combined, section 1003(a) and 1003(g). Prior to the 2017-18 school year, districts were awarded funds to support focus and priority schools on a formula basis in accordance with section 1003(a) of Title I of the ESEA or through a competition in accordance with section 1003(g) of Title I of the ESEA.

Under section 1111(d) of ESSA, and in alignment with Goal 1 of the Florida State Board of Education’s K-20 Strategic Plan, Highest Student Achievement, found at <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/state-board-of-edu/strategic-plan.shtml>, funds will be allocated to local educational agencies (LEAs) to serve schools implementing comprehensive support and improvement activities or targeted support and improvement activities.

For the 2017-18 school year, all funds under the UniSIG program will be awarded on a per-pupil allocation (PPA) basis of \$400 per student with additional funds awarded to Title I and non-Title I high schools with a graduation rate of 67 percent or less. Funds will be awarded for a grant period of October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2018. The PPA table for the 2017-18 year is provided below.

2017 School Grade	Free/Reduced Lunch Rate \geq 75%	Free/Reduced Lunch Rate $<$ 75%
“F”	100% of PPA	98% of PPA
“D”	95% of PPA	93% of PPA

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To support increasing the graduation rate at high schools graduating 67 percent or less of students, high schools with a Survey 3 Preliminary count of more than 456 students will be provided with an allocation of \$30,000; high schools with survey counts between 100 students and 456 students will receive \$22,500; and high schools with less than 100 students will receive \$15,000.

Each district with an eligible school will be required to submit an application at <https://www.floridacims.org>. The online application will include all allocations for schools within each district. The deadline for submission of applications within the Continuous Improvement Management System (CIMS) platform will be September 15, 2017, by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. The DOE 100A must be received by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, September 15, 2017. The UniSIG Request for Applications (RFA) is available at <https://www.floridacims.org/downloads/264>. An outline of the application contents is attached to the RFA.

In preparation for the release of the RFA and online application, districts with eligible schools should complete the District Improvement and Assistance Plan (DIAP) at <https://www.floridacims.org>. Many of the fields within the UniSIG application will be automatically populated from the DIAP, an effort by the Bureau of School Improvement to streamline the process for applying for UniSIG funds.

Charter School Allocations

The allocation of UniSIG funds for each district includes a specific allocation for each eligible public charter school. These funds, which are separate from and in addition to Title I, Part A funds allocated by school districts through the regular rank and serve process, will be released to the district. The district will then be responsible for distributing the funding to eligible charter schools on a monthly reimbursement basis as provided for in section 1002.33(17)(c), Florida Statutes.

To receive funding under this program, the public charter school must develop and implement a school improvement plan (SIP) pursuant to State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.099827, Florida Administrative Code, which must include, at a minimum, the following components:

- Mission statement of school;
- Academic data for most recent three years (if available);
- Student achievement objectives included in the executed charter contract or most recent sponsor-approved SIP;
- Analysis of student performance data including academic performance by each subgroup;
- Detailed plan for addressing each identified deficiency in student performance, including specific actions, person responsible, resources needed and timeline;
- Identification of each component of the school's approved educational program (as described in the approved charter application or contract) that has not been implemented;
- Detailed plan for addressing each identified deficiency noted above, including specific actions, person responsible, resources needed and timeline;
- Identification of other barriers to student success, with a detailed plan for addressing each barrier, including specific actions, person responsible, resources needed and timeline; and
- Specific student outcomes to be achieved.

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Additionally, the charter school must secure the district superintendent's signature on the DOE 100A and complete a budget using the DOE 101. The complete application comprised of the SIP, DOE 100A and DOE 101 must be submitted directly to the Office of Grants Management by 5:00 PM Eastern Time on Friday, September 15, 2017.

If you have questions regarding the information in this memo, please contact the Bureau of School Improvement at 850-245-0426 or BSI@fldoe.org.

HL/jrm

cc: School District Assistant Superintendents
School District Charter School Contacts
School District Directors of Curriculum
School District Directors of Federal Programs
School District Directors of School Improvement
School District Principals
Differentiated Accountability Regional Support Teams
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice