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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents with SIG-eligible Schools

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: February 11, 2014

SUBJECT: **School Improvement Grant 1003(g) Competition for Cohort 3**

We are pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Education (USED) has approved Florida's application for School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g) funding for the purpose of making competitive three-year sub-grants to school districts to implement SIG intervention models starting in 2014-15. Sub-grant awards will range from \$50,000 to \$2 million per school, per year. A list of SIG-eligible schools is attached. As a school district with one or more SIG-eligible schools, you are invited to submit a proposal to compete for funding.

Please note that the total number of awards for SIG Cohort 3 will be considerably smaller than the number awarded in either SIG Cohort 1 or 2. This is an indirect consequence of recently passed federal appropriations legislation that includes changes to the SIG 1003(g) program. Given that these legislative changes may delay the release of next year's SIG funding, and that such a delay would adversely impact SIG-implementing districts if said funds were required for continuation of Cohort 3 awards, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has opted to use available funds to grant 3-year awards to Cohort 3 schools.

An implication of this approach is that FDOE will likely make awards to approximately eight schools, making the selection process for Cohort 3 highly competitive.

The Bureau of School Improvement (BSI) will be hosting two identical workshops to provide districts with an opportunity to build understanding of the Cohort 3 SIG program design and proposal process. Attendance is not required, but districts are encouraged to send a team to one workshop. The attached flyer contains more details, which were provided to district school improvement contacts on January 22, 2014 in anticipation of this announcement. Please note the following registration deadlines.

SIG 1003(g) Competition for Cohort 3

February 11, 2014

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- Workshop 1: registration opened **February 4** and closes **February 13, 2014**
- Workshop 2: registration opened **February 4** and closes **February 17, 2014**

To be considered for a SIG 1003(g), your district must complete and submit an online proposal by the deadlines stated below using the SIP Online web application (<https://www.flisiponline.com/>). **Please note that failing to submit any component of the proposal by the stated deadline will disqualify the district from the competition.**

1. Intent to Apply (ITA): window opens **February 11** and closes **February 28, 2014**.
2. Proposal Phase 1: window opens **February 17** and closes **March 7, 2014**.
3. Proposal Phase 2: window opens **February 28** and closes **April 4, 2014**.

Each district's primary contact for the SIP Online currently has access to the workshop registration module and SIG intent to apply. See the attached list of contacts. If your district requires a different point of contact for the SIG proposal, please email bsi@fldoe.org with the appropriate name, position title and email address as soon as possible. The SIG contact will be the liaison for FDOE staff throughout the proposal process and will receive all announcements and updates. Additionally, the SIG contact is responsible for providing access within the SIP Online to other district and school staff who will attend the workshop and/or contribute to the proposal.

The deadline to submit the full electronic proposal is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, April 4, 2014. As this is a competition and funds are limited, not all eligible districts will receive an award, and not all "SIG-targeted" schools within a winning district are guaranteed an award. The number of awards and award amounts will be based on the quantity and quality of proposals received, as well as the FDOE's analysis of reasonable, allowable and necessary expenses in the accompanying budgets.

All information related to the competition, including the proposal template and frequently asked questions, is available in the SIG 1003(g) tab of the publically-accessible SIP Online FAQ at <https://www.flisiponline.com/faqs>. All questions regarding this competition must be submitted in writing to bsi@fldoe.org or through the Intercom system when logged in to the SIP Online. The FAQ will be updated as new questions are received.

PS/sh

Attachments: SIG Workshop Flyer
List of District SIP Online Primary Contacts
List of SIG 1003(g) FFY13 Eligible Schools

cc: School District Title I Directors
School District School Improvement Contacts
Differentiated Accountability Regional Executive Directors