

# CONFERENCE CALL WITH DEB SIGMAN of CDE REGARDING SIG GRANT Monday, April 12, 2010

- > Troy Flint
- > David Chambliss
- > David Montes de Oca

## 1. What is the funding timeline for the grant, particularly if an applicant applies for the 10-11 school year?

- Application Due June 1
- July SBE Meeting to approve grants
- Award Letter to LEA (within 2 weeks)
- If CA Budget Approved by July 1, 1<sup>st</sup> installment of awards distributed by October
- LEA expected to “float” funds until then
- Funds distributed in 25% payments (quarterly)
  
- Quarterly reporting for certain activities online.
- Annual reporting for grant goals over-all
- Grant may propose differentiated funding each of three years of grant depending on proposed activities
  
- LEA introduces a Projected Budget
- Revised budget must be reviewed and posted online.
- Revision may need SBE approval depending (certainly for change in chosen model)
  
- Local LEA Board policy may govern approval process for grant application.
- CDE only requires evidence of Public Hearings – no guidelines for board action to be taken on grant application outside local policies

## 2. What will be the process for evaluating the grant applications? Is there a rubric? How will CDE staff be making recommendations to the SBE?

- Rubric is attached to the RFP for the grant:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/documents/siglea09rfa.doc>
- Applying for all Tier I and Tier II schools (1<sup>st</sup> priority)
- The application rubric ratings will be taken into consideration next for funding purposes
- Schools with strongest applications considered next.
- SBE looking for clear plan, commitment and capacity from applicants
- Will need to revise school plan and LEA plan in the fall based on approval of grant

**3. Are there any prevailing assumptions built into the evaluation of the grant applications regarding long-term activities (post grant period) being funded through the grant, vs. short-term activities being funded (within grant period). i.e. how is the sustainability of a given grant funded activity considered in the evaluation of the grant?**

- The grant will ask for LEA's to articulate how any funded activities such as salaries will be "transitioned" following the grant period. The viability of that aspect of the grant application will be considered in evaluating the grant.

**4. If a school applies for the charter model, what procedures must be used? Does only the "conversion" aspect of charter law apply, or may a charter be established "new"? If so, who would be the petitioning group in a "new" charter? If "conversion" under charter law is required, must it be 50% tenured teachers only as set forth in law, or may it be parents?**

- The CDE expects that the charter law will be copied with for charter pathways. If the school will be closed and opened as a charter school, or is to be converted, the current charter law is to be applied.

**5. If an LEA chooses not to pursue funds for one of the PLP Schools on the list, however the parent community of that school seeks to demand a reform strategy be applied, what avenues do they have under the law to mandate change at one of the schools on the list?**

- The new "Parent empowerment" law pertaining to among other things, the rights of parents to seek conversion of a school to a charter is predicated on a different list that will not become operable until 2012-13
- A date for this list to be generated has not been set. It is not clear whether these schools will be on this list or not.
- Thus, only the LEA itself may pursue or apply for these funds.

**6. How is it going to be monitored?**

- Grant will be monitored through quarterly reporting of certain activities outlined in the approved grant, as well as through annual academic goals achieved by the school.

**7. Does CDE preference any model being chosen?**

- The federal government is clear that there is to be NO preferences of any approach chosen by an LEA for its schools.