



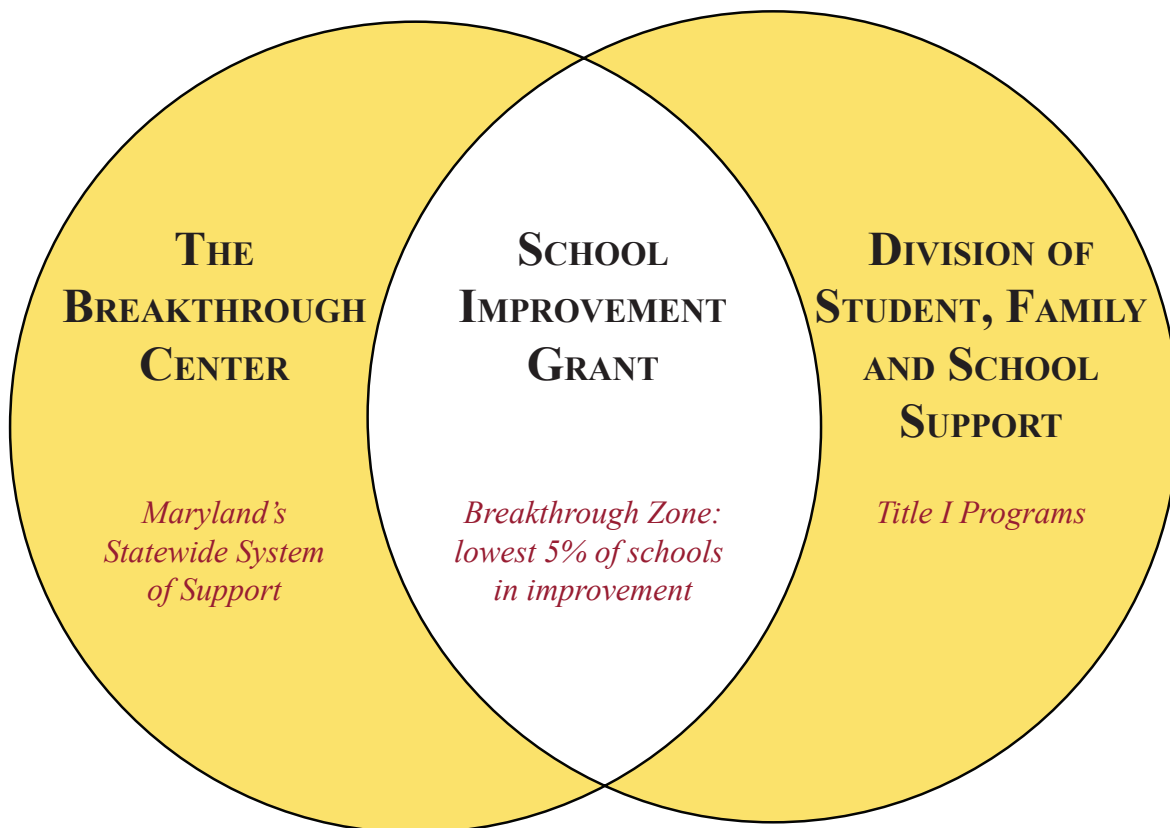
THE BREAKTHROUGH CENTER

Maryland's Statewide System of Support

BUILDING CAPACITY, CHANGING CONDITIONS, SUSTAINING RESULTS

FOR LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS

Integrating the Title I School Improvement Grant into the Statewide System of Support



- The Breakthrough Center exists as the hub at the Maryland State Department of Education through which school turnaround is coordinated across all divisions of the Department.
- The mission of the Center is to ensure the right services are delivered to the right districts and schools at the right time.
- The core strategies are to develop and accelerate school performance and improve the capacity of individuals through breakthrough leading and teaching.
- Through the School Improvement Grant, the Breakthrough Center will work intensively with chronically underperforming districts and schools - those at the bottom 5 percent to

- Assess their comprehensive capacity to improve.
 - Streamline and differentiate the services and supports consistent with capacity and need.
 - Collaborate in the development and execution of structures and strategies to build and sustain their capacity to improve.
 - Spearhead the identification of policies and conditions that will enable them to successfully turnaround their patterns of underperformance.
 - Negotiate with partner districts on the adoption of one of the four school intervention models (closure, restart, turnaround, or transformation, as defined in the Race to the Top guidance and state regulations) and the development of a detailed and sound plan for implementing the model.
 - Drive the passage and adoption of policy-changing conditions in partnership with our partner districts that will grant access to monetary and human supports, teachers specially trained and skilled to work in low-achieving schools, and specially trained teachers specially trained and skilled to work in low-achieving schools, and specially trained and/or highly effective principals.
 - Deliver access to real-time data through an integrated state and district data system that will allow teams to make instructional decisions using integrated, comprehensive, and accurate formative and summative performance and behavioral data.
 - Provide targeted and intensive principal leadership development and teacher professional development.
 - Ensure local curriculum alignment with the Maryland State Curriculum and assessments.
 - Engage students, families, and the community in improvement efforts.
- The Breakthrough Center will establish partnership agreements (MOUs) with the LEAs aligned with the SIG requirements to:
 - Conduct a collaborative analysis of schools and district performance indicators and establish priority needs.
 - Identify and broker applicable resources and partners.
 - Formalize implementation and coordination of intervention improvement strategies.
 - Monitor and assess implementation of interventions and their cross-level impact (classroom, school, district, state).
- The Maryland State Department of Education will establish a five year commitment of assistance for schools and districts in the Breakthrough Zone, coordinated by the Breakthrough Center, to support LEAs and schools in successfully turning around patterns of underperformance.