

Minnesota's Plan for Monitoring LEA SIG Implementation

Establishing the Office of Turnaround Schools (OTAS)

The OTAS will be a state-level organization tasked with providing technical assistance and monitoring for the SIG. The OTAS will be accountable to the Commissioner (chief officer) for progress made against performance targets and other leading indicators, but the details of its operation and leadership will be informed by an advisory board.

Membership in the OTAS advisory board will include: LEAs, representatives from local and/or state teacher unions, higher education, education organizations, leaders that reflect the diversity of the student populations and have expertise in accelerating achievement for traditionally underserved minority students, foundations and the Minnesota business community.

Monitoring Implementation of LEA Grants

The OTAS will collect data to monitor the implementation of the selected intervention model at each grantee school to allow for the tracking of progress toward grant goals and for the identification and dissemination of successful implementation practices and lessons learned. Finally, the data collected will assist with desk reviews and on-site monitoring visits. The LEA will provide data to the OTAS for the purposes of monitoring that may include, but is not necessarily limited to the following areas:

- Site progress against achievement goals (including student achievement and academic growth).
- The effectiveness of instruction and the quality of the learning environment.
- Progress toward improvement on the leading indicators.
- Staffing decisions based on skills, qualifications and experience relevant to the selected intervention model.
- Progress toward taking advantage of increased operational flexibility.

Determining whether to Renew an LEA's Grant

If a grantee school is not meeting its annual goals for student achievement and is not making progress on the leading indicators, the OTAS will determine whether to renew the grant based on the submission of a Grant Implementation Narrative and the completion of Action Steps meant to improve the full and effective implementation of the selected model.

Since implementing an intervention model with fidelity is strongly correlated with better outcomes, it is critical to monitor and evaluate the extent to which the selected intervention model has been implemented as intended. The LEA Grant Implementation Narrative will prompt LEAs to describe both how well the grant activities have been implemented with fidelity and/or barriers to full implementation. The LEA Grant Implementation Narrative will also prompt LEAs to analyze the outcomes of grant activities by using student achievement and other data sources.

Finally, the LEA must also describe Action Steps for improving the implementation and outcomes of the selected intervention model. These Action Steps may include:

- Revisiting the results of the initial diagnostic and/or completing a follow-up diagnostic.
- Replacing the principal and/or staff responsible for ineffective implementation.
- Making significant revisions to the grant budget.
- Creating additional student instructional time.