



## NCPIE News Update 1/10

Massie Ritsch, Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs and Outreach Services, Office of Communications and Outreach, US DOE attended the December 16<sup>th</sup> NCPIE meeting to discuss the **School Improvement Grants (SIGs)**. He is requesting NCPIE's assistance in:

- Publicizing the grant to SEAs, LEAs and your individual networks;
- Formulating fact sheets for parents regarding Race to the Top, SIG, ESEA reauthorization; and
- Mobilizing parents of identified schools to request that school districts apply for SIG funding to support turnarounds in those schools.

The School Improvement Grant does not place a requirement for parent involvement. However, within the school intervention models identified in the grant, districts and schools are asked to increase learning time and create community-oriented schools. A district implementing this component is required to provide *ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement*. The district and or school may partner with parents and parent organizations, faith and community based organizations, health clinics, other State or local agencies and others to create a safe school environment that meet students' social, emotional, and health needs.

### **Other points of advocacy suggested by NCPIE members in attendance:**

- √ Need to incorporate parent involvement requirements into funding grant applications.
- √ Encourage SEAs and LEAs to involve parents in funding process, not just inform them of what will happen to their schools.
- √ Build coalitions and partnerships between SEAs, LEAs, unions, and grassroots organizations to help build parent and school capacity for leadership in parent involvement.

### **The following is a summary of SIG:**

- \$3.5 billion will be released to SEAs for Title I Schools OR Title I eligible schools (schools that would qualify if their LEAs would count secondary schools in Title I) which are in the bottom 5% of low-performing schools. Nationwide this accounts for 5,000 schools.

- SEAs will identify those schools and notify the US DOE by Feb. 8, 2010 who they are.
- In early January applications for monies will be made available to SEAs.
- Applications will be due Spring 2010.
- Grants awarded for the 2010-2011 school year.

**There are 4 models to choose from for SIG Funds:**

1. Replace/restructure all school leadership and at least 50% teachers.
2. Only leadership change and teachers remain.
3. Turn school over to a Charter School or other NGO to run.
4. Close down school and move students to a higher performing school.

**Programs Highlighted by Massie Ritsch today as examples:**

- ❖ Parent Revolution in Los Angeles: <http://www.parentrevolution.org/>
- ❖ Academy for Urban School Leadership: <http://www.ausl-chicago.org/>
- ❖ Mastery Charter Schools in Pennsylvania: <http://www.masterycharter.org/>
- ❖ Locke High School in Los Angeles: <http://www.lockehs.org/> and
- ❖ Green Dot: <http://www.greendot.org/>

**Examples of how funds can be used:**

- Operational costs
- Security
- Wrap around services for kids (health, childcare, etc.)
- SES
- Extended Learning Time (after school and summer programs)

**US DOE websites for more information:**

This is the website which gives information on SIG:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/sif/090825sigv2.ppt>

Fact sheet:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/sif/factsheet.html>

Examples of successful efforts:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/sif/examples.html>

Federal Register notice:

<http://frwebgate4.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/TEXTgate.cgi?WAISdocID=306362506766+0+1+0&WAISaction=retrieve>

Press Release:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/08/08262009.html>

**U.S. Department of Education Contact Information:**

Carrie Jasper, Coordinator of Parent Outreach  
[Carrie.Jasper@ed.gov](mailto:Carrie.Jasper@ed.gov)

Kim Morton, Special Assistant to Massie Ritsch  
[Kim.Morton@ed.gov](mailto:Kim.Morton@ed.gov)

Zollie Stevenson, Director of Student Achievement and School Accountability  
[Zollie.stevenson@ed.org](mailto:Zollie.stevenson@ed.org)

Massie Ritsch, Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs and Outreach Services  
[Massie.Ritsch@ed.gov](mailto:Massie.Ritsch@ed.gov)

NCPIE's next meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Massie Ritsch is coming again to talk about the reauthorization of ESEA. Hope to see you there.

Sue Ferguson  
NCPIE Chair