

## Overview of Four Reform Models under the Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG)

The America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), enacted by President Obama in February 2009, set aside funds under the School Improvement Grant (SIG). The goal of SIG is to dramatically transform school culture and increase student outcomes in each state's persistently lowest-achieving schools, including secondary schools, through robust and comprehensive reforms.

Each state is required to identify schools in Tiers I, II, and III that are eligible to receive SIG funding. LEAs then identify the Tier I and II schools that they want to transform, and determine which of four school intervention models is most suited to meet the needs of the school and the resources available to the LEA. Listed below is a summary of the four models identified in the ARRA law:

- Restart Model  
A restart model is one in which an LEA converts a school or closes and reopens a school under a charter school operator, a charter management organization (CMO), or an education management organization (EMO) that has been selected through a rigorous review process. A restart model must enroll, within the grades it serves, any former student who wishes to attend the school.
- Close/Consolidate Model  
A close/consolidate model is one in which an LEA may use SIG funds to pay certain reasonable and necessary costs associated with closing a Tier I or Tier II school, such as costs related to parent and community outreach, including but not limited to, press releases, newsletters, newspaper announcements, hotlines, direct mail notices, or meetings regarding the school closure; services to help parents and students transition to a new school, or orientation activities, including open houses, that are specifically designed for students, and then enroll the students in other, higher performing schools in the LEA.
- Turnaround Model  
A turnaround model is one in which the LEA replaces the principal and staff and rehires no more than 50% of the staff, and grant the principal sufficient operations flexibility (including in staffing, calendars/time, and budgeting) to fully implement a comprehensive approach to substantially improve student outcomes.
- Transformation Model  
A transformation model is one in which the LEA must implement each of the following strategies: (1) replace the principal and take steps to increase teacher and school leader effectiveness; (2) institute comprehensive instructional reforms; (3) increase learning time and create community-oriented schools; and (4) provide operational flexibility and sustained support.

The National Education Association has an excellent chart on their website comparing the required LEA activities for each of the four models at [www.nea.org/home/37333.htm](http://www.nea.org/home/37333.htm).