



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Diane Stuehmer & Randy McIntyre

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Section 1003(g) FY 2014 School Improvement Grants (SIG). These grants will be funded with FY 2014 School Turnaround Grant Funds.

RATIONALE: School Improvement Grants, authorized under Section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I or ESEA), are grants, through State educational agencies (SEA), to local educational agencies (LEA) for use in eligible schools that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to raise substantially the achievement of their students.

Districts must demonstrate capacity to implement the selected intervention model. A District may apply for up to five years of SIG funding, of which the LEA may use one year of funding for planning and other pre-implementation activities; at least three of the five years must be used for full implementation of the chosen model and up to two additional years of the five may be used for activities related to sustaining reforms. An LEA may not receive more than five years of continuous funding with respect to an individual school. Thus, if an LEA receives a year of funding for planning and other pre-implementation activities, it may receive only one year for activities related to sustaining reforms following full intervention implementation. An LEA may request and receive fewer than five years of funding; however, an LEA receiving an award must use at least three years for full implementation of the selected intervention.

Background information - Nebraska has received a FY 2014 School Improvement Grant (SIG), authorized by Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. NDE will award competitive grants to districts having schools that have been identified to be among the persistently lowest achieving schools.

Estimated Cost - \$2,900,000