

# OFFICE of SCHOOL TURNAROUND

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



MAY • 2015

## WHAT'S NEW *Moving Forward*

We would like to welcome you to the first edition of the Office of School Turnaround (OST) monthly newsletter. You are encouraged to look for our newsletter each month as we provide you with a calendar of events, successful turnaround strategies, regulation reminders and highlights from around the state of what is working well in our schools.

Designations for the 2013-2014 school year have been finalized and the complete list can be found on the OSDE Website under the Office of School Turnaround and the Office of Accountability. With the late notice of school designations, please be assured the regulations and requirements associated with school designations will not impact the end of this school year. We are working collaboratively with OSDE departments to ensure efficient steps and plans are put into place that will provide sites options as we quickly approach the start of the new fiscal year. Follow up information will soon be available via email, website and Single-Sign-On.

As the Office of School Turnaround, it is our goal and responsibility to provide you with the support, financial assistance and/or resources needed to build capacity and sustain change that positively impacts your students and their achievement. This includes helping to facilitate, collaborate and coordinate with other OSDE departments to help ensure you are provided a network of resources and support. We are "moving forward" in the Office of School Turnaround and are looking forward to working with you!

*Desarae Witmer*  
Executive Director

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## SPOTLIGHT

### New Designations

As designations are coming out for the 2013-2014 school year (Fiscal Year 2015) the School Turnaround Team would like to express our commitment to working with you and your site. Additionally, we would like to provide you with some helpful information to guide you through what it means to be a Priority, Targeted Intervention or Focus School.

The [School Turnaround](#) page found on the State Department of Education website is designed to be a resource to you. On this page you can find the following information:

- Designation Letter: This letter provides information regarding criteria for each designation.
- Reward, Focus, Targeted Intervention, & Priority School Guides: These pages provide detailed information outlining criteria for each designation.
- GMS School Improvement Planning & Budget (PowerPoint & Webinar versions): These pages provide relevant information on navigating the Grants Management System (GMS).

Our goal is to serve as a resource for all schools on designation, and we hope you will not hesitate to call with any questions you may have.

Another helpful resource is found on the Accreditation/HQT/School Improvement link found through Single Sign-On. By following the school improvement link you can find site AMO reports.

\*Allocations have been made for FY15 designations through GMS. Because of the timing with these designations, please note the following two options:

Option 1: If LEAs choose to spend FY15 money immediately, you may do so. However, a School Improvement Plan and a budget for those funds will be due by June 30th to the OSDE.

Option 2: If LEAs choose not to immediately spend the FY15 funds, there will be a place on GMS to rollover the FY15 funds to the next year. Note: LEAs will NOT have to submit an additional School Improvement Plan or a budget at this time.

All LEAs receiving these funds will be notified and will receive additional information.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

### Closing Out FY14

#### *Finishing up 2013 Designations Draft*

As we move closer to the end of FY15, it is time to begin closing out claims associated with Project 515 School Improvement funds for FY14.

#### **Steps to Close out Claims:**

- Please login to the Grants Management System (GMS on Single Sign-On) to close out any budgetary items. This is ONLY if you received any School Improvement funds for school year 2012-2013. Remember, this year's School Improvement 1003a funds will expire by September 30, 2015.

- If you have need to submit a claim for the allocated money, use the "00" School Improvement Plan associated with your district. Go to "Payments" and then click on the "View Summary Expenditure/Closeout Reports" button. Create a new report and attach your PDF documents for the claim.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

##### **June 30, 2015**

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN for FY 14 should be submitted to OSDE.

##### **September 30, 2015**

FY14 FUNDS will expire on this date if 515 funds have not been encumbered.

##### **December 1, 2015**

CLAIMS on FY14 FUNDS for goods and services should be received by the OSDE.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

# School Improvement Grant (SIG) Applications

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) has recently applied to the United States Department of Education (USDE) to fund a fifth cohort of SIG. This grant is available only to local education agencies (LEAs) who have been designated "Priority" or "Focus" on the most recent designations and receive Title I funds. These funds can be used to augment a turnaround effort for a site. The process is competitive and does require an application. The application will be

narrowed down to the finalists by an extensive review. Once the finalists are chosen, site visits will be conducted by the Office of School Turnaround to determine the grantees. If your site is interested in applying for a School Improvement Grant (SIG) and have any questions please feel free to visit our website: <http://ok.gov/sde/school-improvement-grant-sig> or contact Beth Steele-SIG Director at (405) 521-2809 or [Beth.Steele@sde.ok.gov](mailto:Beth.Steele@sde.ok.gov)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Making the Grade: Indianola Public Schools

When we learned that our high school was on the School Improvement list, we as a staff were not pleased. Being a Priority School was not a distinction that gave us pride. It was critical that we examine what we were doing and identify ways to improve.

Math was a primary area of weakness, but we took this opportunity to strengthen all areas. Three strategies helped us improve. One, we began to learn how to use data to inform our instruction. Teachers of the core subjects attended training sessions provided by the State Department of Education. We have gifted, influential instructors, so it was a matter of more accurately directing our efforts, and data analysis is indispensable in this process. Two, we began to meet weekly as a staff to identify areas that needed attention and develop strategies to meet those needs. We had a difficult

beginning, but the result was a more cohesive team that took ownership of all of the students. Three, we attacked our problem at an earlier point. Specifically, we began to build a better foundation by stressing better math skills in the seventh and eighth grade, well before the students take the Algebra I EOI test. In 2010, we had about a 20% pass rate for Algebra I. We anticipate about 80% of our students will pass this year.

Basically, success requires dedicated teachers willing to work together as team for a common goal. We have those dedicated teachers, and they have proven that they are willing to work as a team. Our current goal is to be consistent with our strategy and continue to improve.

*Mark Baumann*  
*Superintendent/Principal, Indianola Public Schools*

## Come See Us!

We will be live and in person at the **EngageOK** summer conference that will take place at the Cox Convention Center on July 7-9 in Oklahoma City. Don't miss the chance to meet the Office of School Turnaround. See you there!

