



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

February 14, 2018

Dear LEA Leader,

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE's) implementation plan for the 1003 grant for school improvement activities under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for the 2018-19 school year. As a recipient of OSSE's current school improvement funding, we want to provide you up-to-date information about this grant to assist with future planning.

Background: School Improvement Funding under NCLB and the ESEA Waiver

As you likely know, ESSA combined two funding streams for school improvement that were originally established under the No Child Left Behind Act and revised via the District of Columbia's (DC's) approved waiver to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA Waiver): 1003 (a) and 1003 (g). The 1003 (a) grant was targeted to LEAs with Priority and Focus schools, and represented four percent of DC's total allocation for Title I, Part A. Eligible LEAs with schools identified as Priority or Focus could use 1003 (a) funds to support the implementation of their school improvement plans. Focus schools were eligible for up to \$60,000 to support improvement activities, and Priority schools were eligible for up to \$80,000. For the current 2017-18 school year, OSSE has maintained the structure of the 1003 (a) grant in the administration of the new grant under ESSA, called 1003. As was described in my [July 20, 2017](#) correspondence to LEA leaders, OSSE decided to maintain the current grant structure because DC is in the midst of transitioning to a new accountability system under ESSA.

The 1003 (g) grant, also called the School Improvement Grant (SIG), is a multi-year competitive grant that was awarded to Priority schools that adopted one of seven improvement models to accelerate student achievement. 1003 (g) grant funds represented three percent of DC's Title I, Part A allocation. This grant program was ended under ESSA and no competition is taking place in 2017-18. However, currently-funded schools are eligible to receive up to two years of additional funding beyond their initial grant period (2018-19 school year for cohort III and 2019-20 for cohort IV).

New Funding Model under ESSA: Plans for 2018-19

Under ESSA, the 1003 (a) and 1003 (g) funding streams are combined into the 1003 grant, which represents seven percent of the agency's Title I, Part A allocation. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, the 1003 grant will be aligned with DC's new accountability system and will be targeted to the lowest performing schools that are identified in the new system. These schools will be called Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CS)

schools, and will represent the bottom five percent of schools and schools with graduation rates below 67 percent. For more information about DC’s accountability system, I encourage you to review DC’s State Plan on [OSSE’s website](#).

There are key similarities and differences between the school improvement grant programs under NCLB/ESEA Waiver and ESSA, which are summarized below:

	No Child Left Behind/ ESEA Waiver		ESSA
Name	1003 (a)	1003 (g)	1003
Funding amount available	4% of DC’s Title I Allocation	3% of DC’s Title I allocation	7% of DC’s Title I allocation*
Allocation method	Formula	Competitive	Formula with rigorous minimum requirements to receive funds (i.e., funds would be allocated to all schools that meet the rigorous application requirements)
Targeted schools	Priority and Focus schools	Priority schools	Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools (“CS schools”)
Required activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of school improvement plan aligned with the seven turnaround principles or evidence-based practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of specific SIG intervention model - Implementation of LEA support/oversight activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and implementation of ESSA-aligned school improvement plan - Implementation of LEA support/oversight activities

*Contingent on funding availability

The 1003 grant under ESSA will provide CS schools the resources and supports they need to improve, such as capacity-building resources to strengthen educators’ focus on teaching and learning, instructional supports to address students’ differentiated needs, or access to community partnerships to deepen existing investments in schools. OSSE plans to fund participating schools for multiple years, with the goal of ensuring that they have the sustained support needed to make meaningful, lasting improvements. We are very excited about what this grant program will offer DC’s students, educators and communities. The grant is planned to be released in December 2018, immediately after OSSE releases school classifications aligned with the new ESSA-aligned accountability system.

Next Steps

We look forward to being in touch with you regarding next steps on the 1003 grant. For those LEAs who will receive 1003 funding in the 2017-18 school year, please be aware that

funds from this year's grant program will not be eligible for carryover into the 2018-19 school year. Please be sure to plan accordingly. Additionally, please note that 2018-19 grant funds will be subject to the supplement not supplant requirements of the ESSA law. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Gaskins at Sharon.Gaskins@dc.gov or (202) 654-6112 for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hanseul Kang".

Hanseul Kang
State Superintendent