

School Improvement Grant (SIG) Key Terminology

Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools are designated as persistently lowest-achieving and are eligible to apply for a School Improvement Grant (SIG). Tier 3 schools are defined below and may be eligible for school improvement assistance, but state education agencies must serve Tier 1 and 2 schools first. When the persistently lowest-achieving school data are run using the 2009-10 assessment data, Tier 1 and 2 schools will fall under the oversight of the State School Reform Officer as described in the Revised School Code MCL 380.1280c. Tier 3 schools will not fall under the oversight of the State School Reform Officer.

For the School Improvement Grant the Michigan Department of Education was required to define the rules for “persistently lowest-achieving schools” within federally defined parameters. Local school districts with persistently lowest-achieving schools are eligible to apply for the school improvement grant (SIG) to turnaround student achievement. The SIG funds can only be used for the designated school and can only be used to implement one of four approved intervention models. The U.S. Department of Education requires that persistently lowest-achieving schools be drawn from two pools and designated as Tier 1 or Tier 2.

Tier 1 schools: A Tier 1 school is a Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is in the fifth percentile or lower among all Title I schools in improvement, corrective action or restructuring. A Title I high school may also be identified in Tier 1 if it has a graduation rate below 60% for the last three years.

Tier 2 schools: A Tier 2 school is a secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I, Part A funds and is in the fifth percentile or lower among all secondary schools eligible for Title I, Part A funds. A secondary school may also be identified as Tier 2 in two other ways: if the school is receiving Title I funds and is identified for improvement, corrective action or restructuring and has student achievement and growth below that of the Tier 2 school at the fifth percentile rank; or if the school is a high school that is eligible for but not receiving Title I, Part A funds and has a graduation rate below 60% for the last three years.

Tier 3 schools: A Tier 3 school is a Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is not a Tier 1 or Tier 2 school. All schools from the Tier 1 pool of schools that were not identified as Tier 1 lowest 5% or as Tier 1 based on graduation rate are included as Tier 3 schools unless the schools were newly eligible and identified as Tier 2 schools. Any school that was omitted from the persistently lowest-

achieving list due to small size (fewer than 30 full academic year students tested) is also identified as a Tier 3 school.

The Michigan Department of Education must give preference to funding all Tier 1 and 2 schools before granting funds to Tier 3 schools. Please see the Short Narrative and the Full Narrative for additional details on the business rules for identifying persistently lowest-achieving schools.