

Guidance Granting Authority to Obligate FY20 School Improvement 1003 Funds

The MDE is granting substantial approval to allow school districts and charter schools that have been awarded FY20 Title I School Improvement funds the authority to obligate funds for the purpose of implementing **evidence-based interventions, activities, or strategies** in the form of **personnel, on-going job-embedded professional learning, and high-quality instructional resources**. All LEAs received substantially approvable status as authorized by 34 CFR 76.708 of their FY20 LEA Consolidated Plan. The Title I School Improvement program is supported through the state's Title I Allocation. Therefore, your LEA may obligate funds for the purposes mentioned above as of July 1, 2019. Any obligations that are not allowable under the program and/or not included in the aforementioned listing will be subject to questioned cost during an audit or monitoring of the program.

Please remember – Title I, A School Improvement Funds (1003) may only be used to support evidence-based interventions, strategies, or activities meeting the strong, moderate, or promising levels as outlined below.

An activity, strategy, or intervention that either – demonstrated a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

- **strong evidence** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study; OR
- **moderate evidence** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; OR
- **promising evidence** from at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias;

While a substantially approvable status allows for the obligation of funds, an LEA **may not** request reimbursement for FY20 Title I, School Improvement funds without an approved FY20 Title I School Improvement Funding Application. The period of obligation for these funds is July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2021.