SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
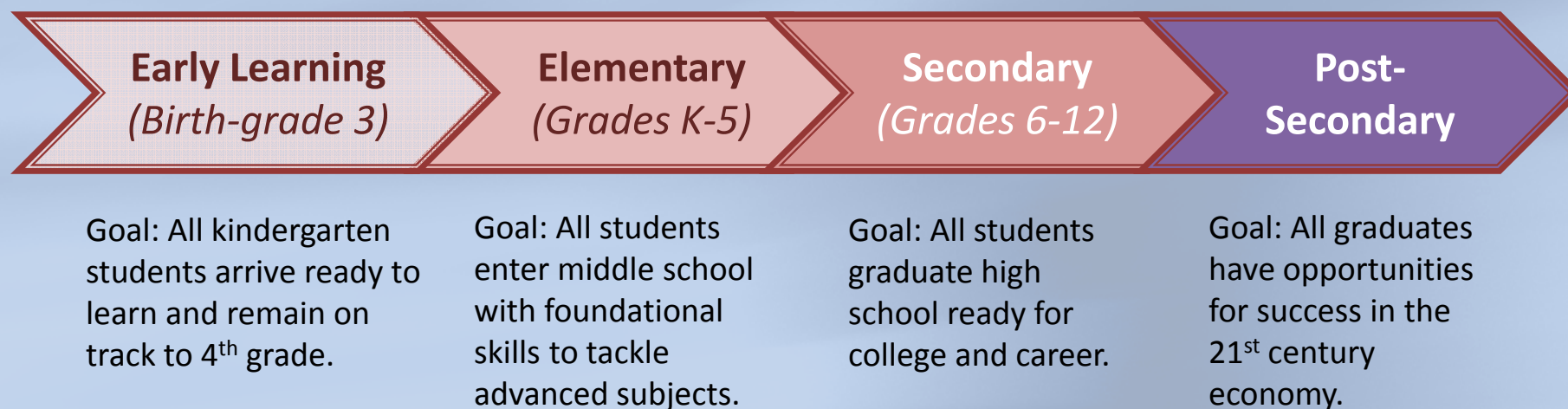
Overarching Goal

"By 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world."

President Barack Obama, February 24, 2009

A Comprehensive, Cradle-to-Career Strategy

Early Learning *(Birth-grade 3)*	Elementary *(Grades K-5)*	Secondary *(Grades 6-12)*	Post-Secondary
Goal: All kindergarten students arrive ready to learn and remain on track to 4th grade.	Goal: All students enter middle school with foundational skills to tackle advanced subjects.	Goal: All students graduate high school ready for college and career.	Goal: All graduates have opportunities for success in the 21st century economy.

The Four Assurances

Implement college- and career-ready standards

Great teachers and great leaders

Provide information to families and educators

Improve student learning and achievement in our lowest performing schools

A National Problem

There are approximately 5,000 chronically underperforming schools in America, roughly 5 percent of all the schools in the country. About half are in big cities, about a third are in rural areas, and the rest are in suburbs and medium-sized towns. As Secretary Duncan has said, "This is a national problem—urban, rural, and suburban."

--"Turning Around the Bottom Five Percent," Speech by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, June 22, 2009

School Improvement Grants (SIG)

- **$4.1 billion** to improve low-achieving schools nationally
  - **$3 billion** appropriated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
  - **$546 million** appropriated through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2009
  - **$546 million** appropriated through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010
- Authorized under section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended (ESEA)

Distribution of SIG Funds

- ED to State educational agencies (SEAs):

  - Formula grants based on each State's share of funds under Title I, Parts A, C, and D

- SEAs to local educational agencies (LEAs):

  - Competitive grants

- LEAs to schools: $50,000 - $2 million per school

FY09 SIG Award Highlights

- States have identified 2153 Tier I and II schools
  - ~2% of all schools across the nation
- Number of Tier I and II schools in a State ranged from 5 to 198
- 50 States + DC, BIE, and Puerto Rico have received SIG awards
- 831 Tier I and II schools have received awards (N=49 States, DC and BIE)
- 416 Tier III schools have received awards (N=49 States, DC and BIE)

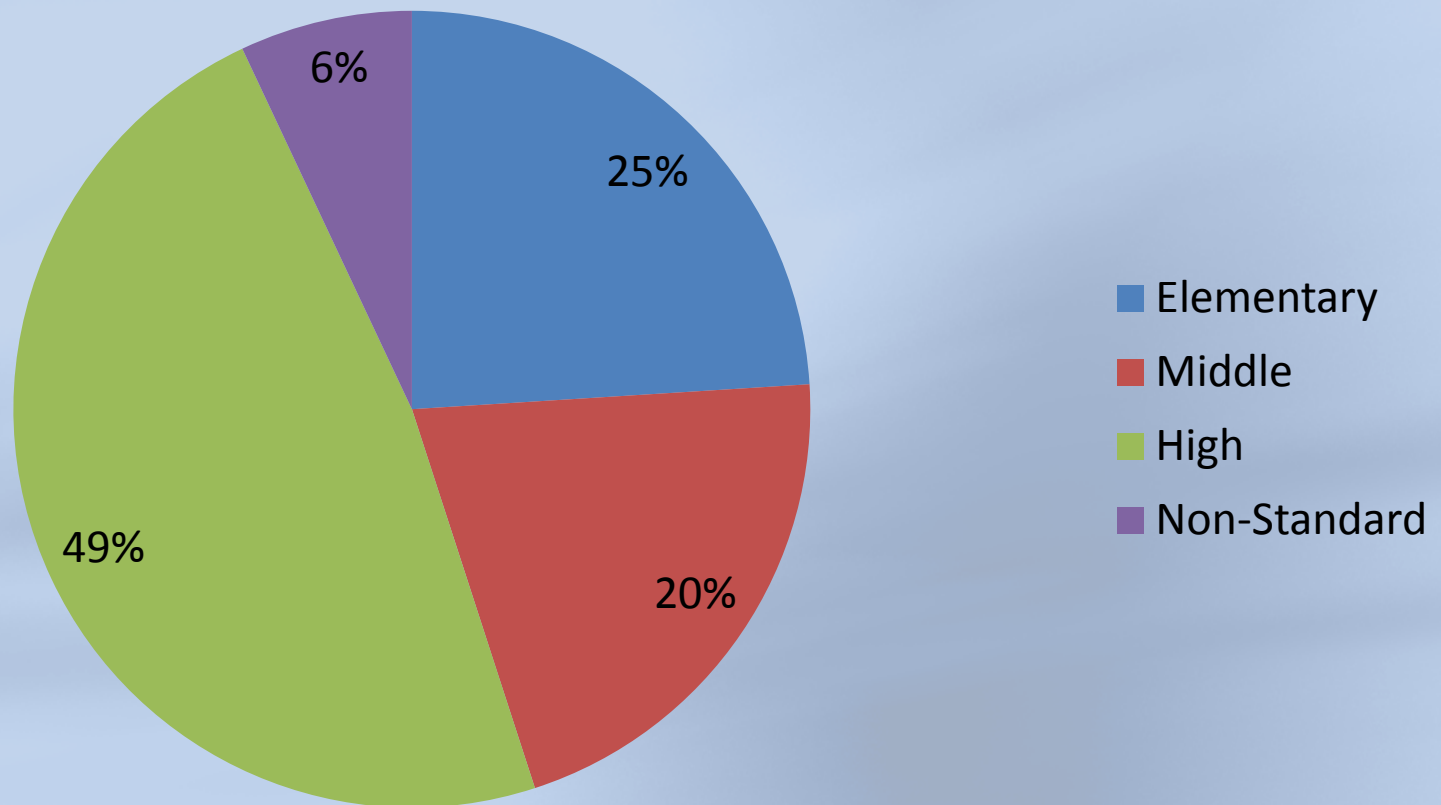# SIG Awarded Schools by Locale

SIG Schools

- Central City
- Urban Fringe
- Rural

53%

24%

23%
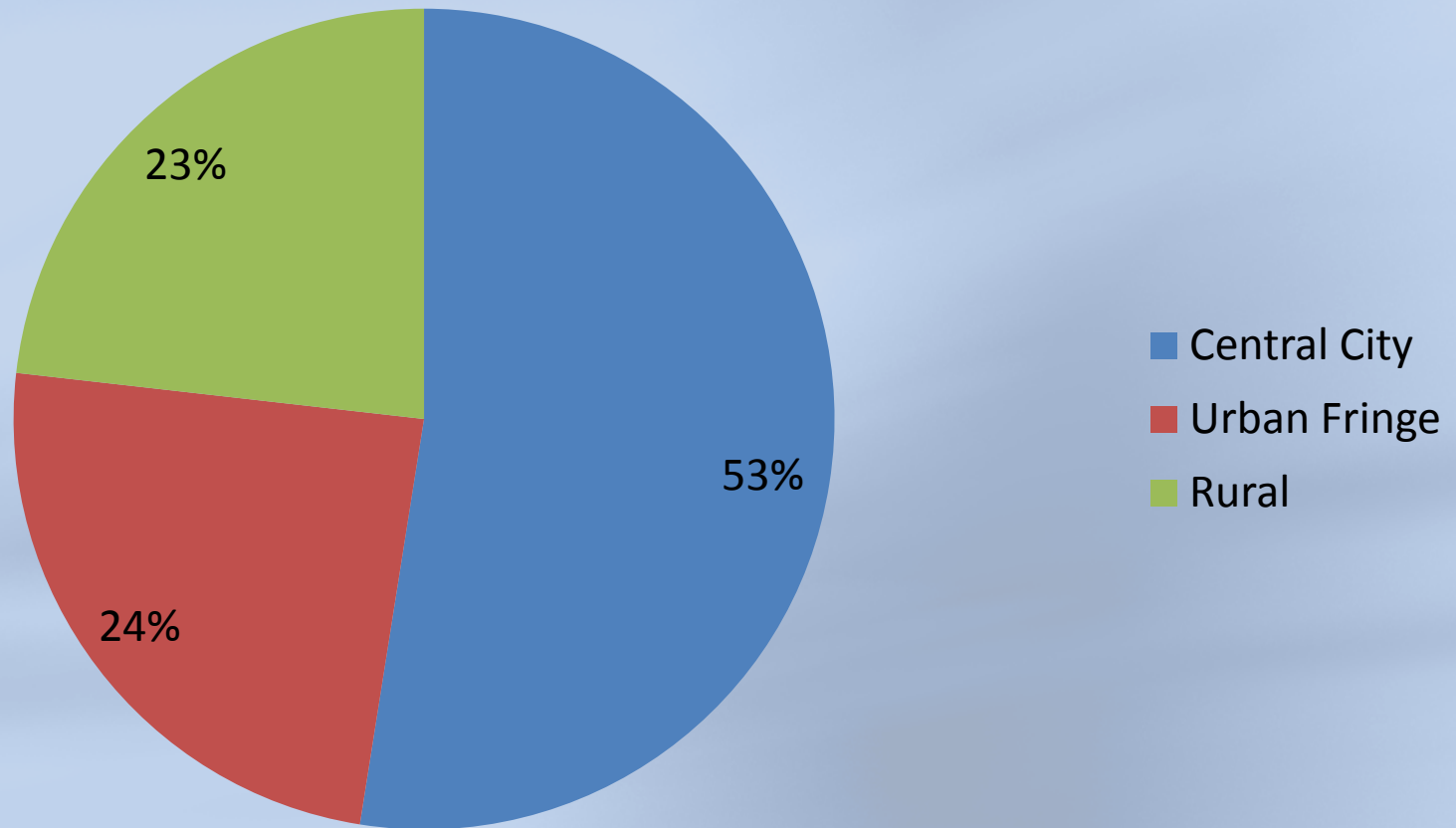
N=49 states, DC, and BIE (Information unavailable for HI)

SIG Awarded Schools by Grade Range

SIG Awarded Tier I and II Schools by Grade Range

Legend:
- Elementary
- Middle
- High
- Non-Standard

Pie chart values: 25%, 20%, 49%, 6%

N=49 states, DC, and BIE (Information unavailable for HI)

SIG Awarded Schools by Size

SIG Awarded Schools by Size

- < 201 Students
- 201-400 Students
- 401-600 Students
- > 600 Students

13%

24%

23%

40%
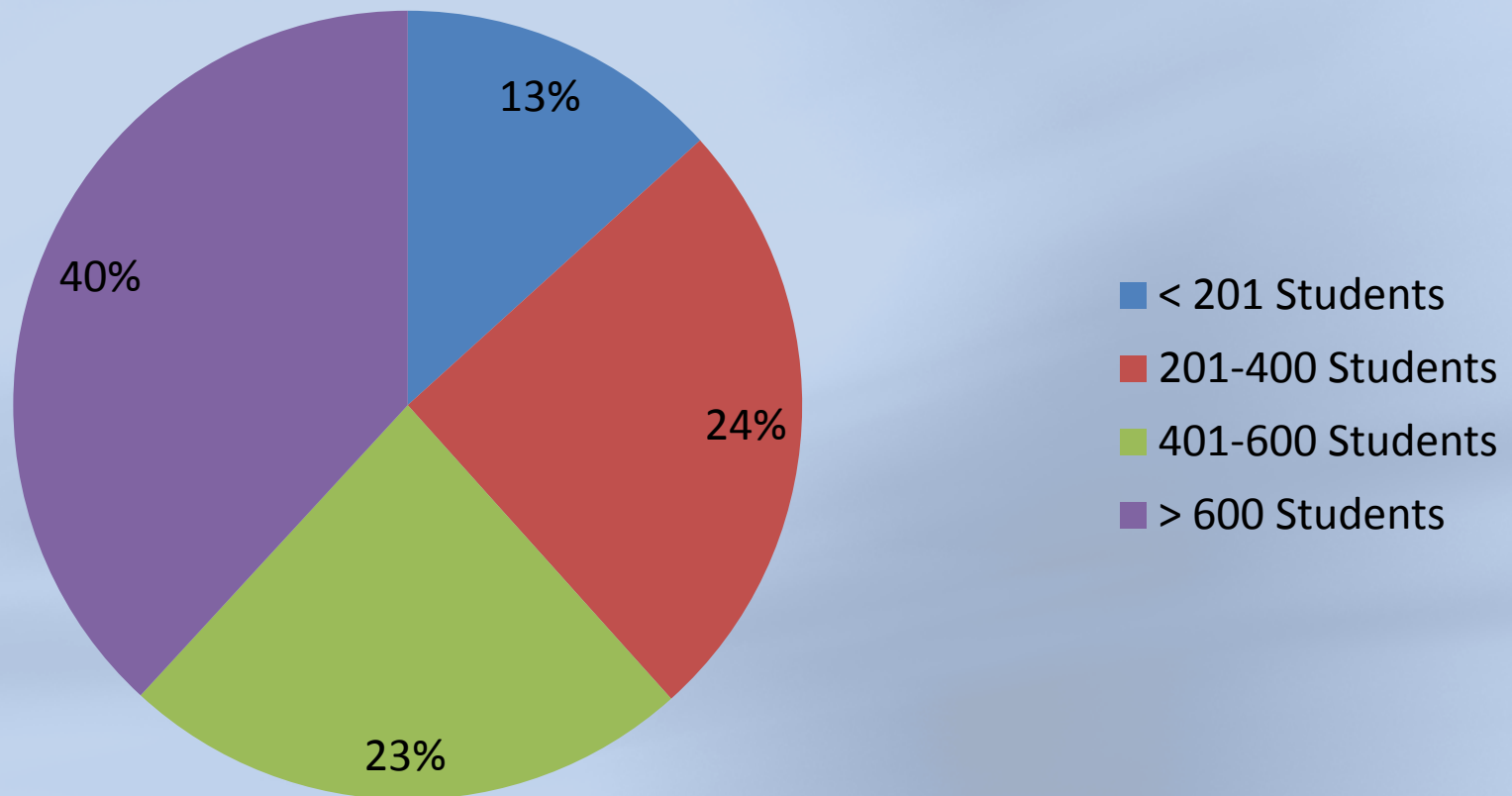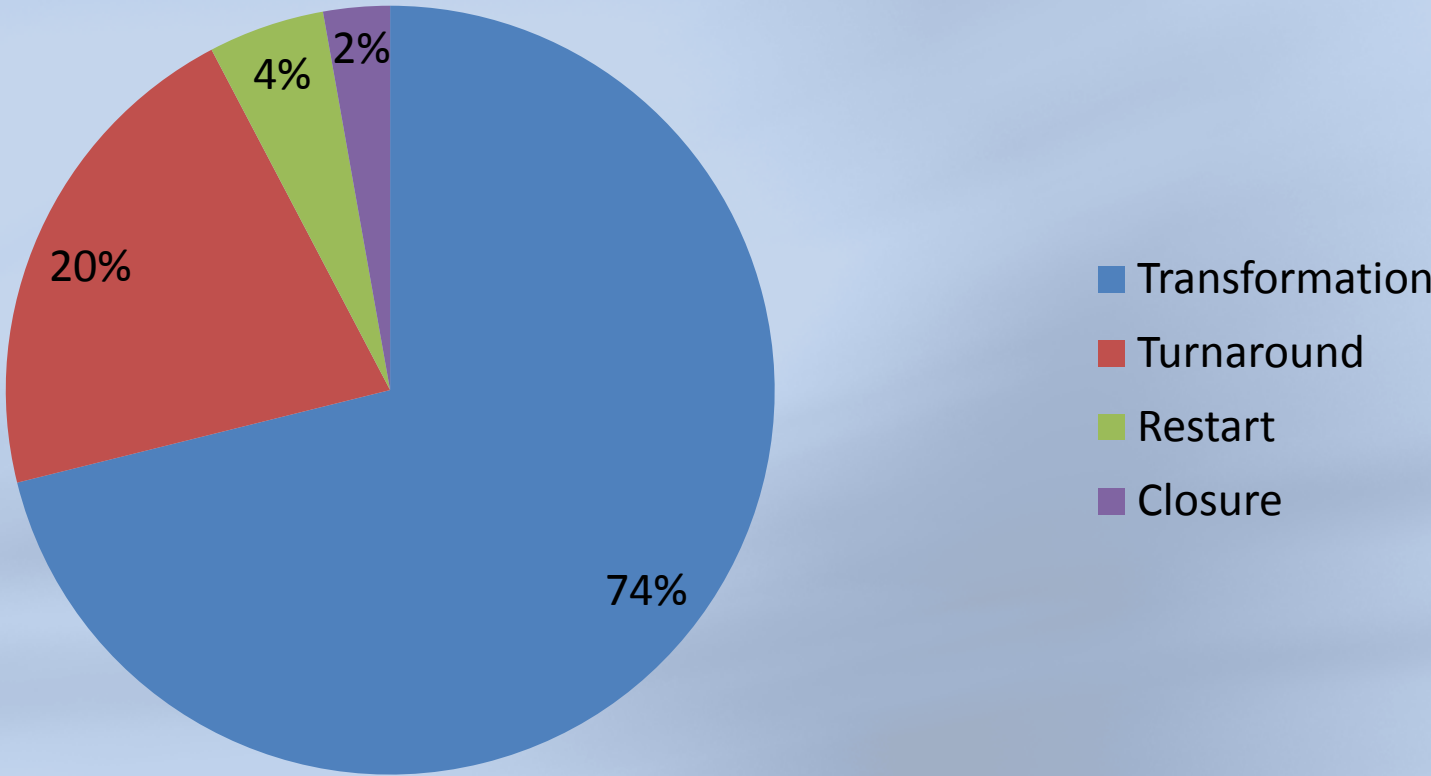
N=49 states, DC, and BIE (Information unavailable for HI)

Model Selection in SIG Awarded Schools

SIG Awarded Tier I and II Schools | Model Selection

- ■ Transformation
- ■ Turnaround
- ■ Restart
- ■ Closure

74%
20%
4%
2%

N=49 states, DC, and BIE (Information unavailable for HI)

SIG Awarded Schools by Grade Level and Type

	School Type		
	Elementary Schools	**Middle Schools**	**High Schools**
% Regular School	96.0%	96.3%	85.7%
% Charter	3.5%	1.8%	6.4%
% Alternative	0.0%	1.1%	5.6%
% Special Education	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%
% Vocational	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%

N=49 states, DC, and BIE (Information unavailable for HI)

SIG Awarded Schools by Grade Level and Size

	School Size		
	Elementary Schools	**Middle Schools**	**High Schools**
% < 201 Students	12.8%	8.1%	12.7%
% 201-400 Students	37.0%	22.9%	14.7%
% 401 - 600 Students	33.3%	32.1%	9.3%
% > 600 Students	16.8%	36.9%	63.4%

N=49 states, DC, and BIE (Information unavailable for HI)

SIG Monitoring

- 12 States
  - Observation narrative describing how the SEA, LEA, and school is addressing:
    - School climate
    - Staffing changes
    - Professional development/enhanced instruction
    - Use of Data
    - Technical Assistance
  - Areas for Improvement, so that ED can provide TA

Four SIG School Intervention Models

Turnaround

Restart

Closure

Transformation

Transformation Model Overview

Teachers and Leaders

- Replace principal
- Implement new evaluation system
  - Developed with staff
  - Uses student growth as a significant factor
- Identify and reward staff who are increasing student outcomes; support and then remove those who are not
- Implement strategies to recruit, place, and retain staff

Instructional and Support Strategies

- Select and implement an instructional model based on student needs
- Provide job-embedded professional development designed to build capacity and support staff
- Ensure continuous use of data to inform and differentiate instruction

Time and Support

- Provide *increased learning time*
  - Staff and students
- Provide ongoing mechanism for community and family engagement
- Partner to provide social-emotional and community-oriented services and supports

Governance

- Provide sufficient operating flexibility to implement reform
- Ensure ongoing technical assistance

An LEA with nine or more Tier I and Tier II schools may not implement the Transformation Model in more than 50% of those schools.

Turnaround Model Overview

Teachers and Leaders

- Replace principal
- Use locally adopted "turnaround" competencies to review and select staff for school (rehire no more than 50% of existing staff)
- Implement strategies to recruit, place, and retain staff

Instructional and Support Strategies

- Select and implement an instructional model based on student needs
- Provide job-embedded PD designed to build capacity and support staff
- Ensure continuous use of data to inform and differentiate instruction

Time and Support

- Provide *increased learning time*
  - Staff and students
- Social-emotional and community-oriented services and supports

Governance

- New governance structure
- Grant operating flexibility to school leader

May also implement any of the required or permissible strategies under the Transformation Model

Restart Model Overview

Restart model is one in which an LEA **converts a school or closes and reopens a school** under a charter school operator, a charter management organization (CMO), or an education management organization (EMO) that has been selected **through a rigorous review process**.

Restart Model Overview

- *A restart model must enroll, within the grades it serves, any former student who wishes to attend the school.*

- *A rigorous review process could take such things into consideration as an applicant's team, track record, instructional program, model's theory of action, sustainability.*

- *As part of this model, the SEA must review the process the LEA will use/has used to select the partner*

School Closure Model Overview

School closure occurs when an LEA closes a school and enrolls the students who attended that school in other schools in the LEA that are **higher achieving**.

- *These other schools should be within reasonable proximity to the closed school*
- *Office for Civil Rights Technical Assistance Module-- Struggling Schools and School Closure Issues: An Overview of Civil Rights Considerations.*

courage

collaboration

capacity

commitment

2011 Timeline

March '11	March-May '11	May '11	Fall '11

- **ED awards SIG grants to States**
- **Districts apply to States**
- **States award SIG grants to Districts**
- **New SIG schools open**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

http://www.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html
- **School Improvement Grant Guidance (FAQs)**
- **Final Requirements**
- **SEA Application**
- **Fact sheets/Examples**
- **State by State budget tables**
- **Links to videos highlighting successful turnaround efforts**

http://dww.ed.gov/topic/?T_ID=21
- **"What Works Clearinghouse" – Resources for Turning Around Chronically Low Performing Schools**

www.centerii.org
- **Handbook on Effective Implementation of SIGs**
- **Six Recorded Webinars**
- **"What LEAs are Doing"**
- **Planning & Implementation Tools/Resources**

www.massinsight.org/turnaround
- **New Resource: "State Policies that can Support Turnar**