

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT HISTORY:**

In the fall of 2009, The US Department of Education released revised guidance for the School Improvement Grant requirements. One of the most significant changes was to identify our lowest performing schools and focus the work and distribution of funds to these newly identified “persistently lowest achieving” schools. This is a change that is taking place nationally and is providing an unprecedented opportunity to truly discover what works to improve student achievement on a broad scale and to replicate best practices in other schools with similar settings. The nation’s schools receiving School Improvement Grants and the state departments monitoring the implementation are going to be very closely studied by all types of research organizations.

### **DEFINITION:**

#### **Tier I Schools**

Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that:

- 1) Is among the **lowest-achieving five percent** of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the state
- 2) Is a high school that has had a **graduation rate that is below 60%** over a number of years.

#### **Tier II Schools**

Any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I, Part A funds that:

- 1) Is among the **lowest-achieving five percent** of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the state
- 2) Is a high school that has had a **graduation rate that is below 60%** over a number of years.

#### **Tier III Schools**

Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is not a Tier I or Tier II school.

### **FACTS REGARDING ADE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:**

- LEAs with the lowest performing schools (usually the bottom 20% of schools) are eligible to apply for grants. LEAs with persistently lowest-achieving (bottom 5%) schools are eligible to apply for the Tier I and II School Improvement Grant (SIG).
- Charters and traditional schools are eligible to apply for the grants.
- All grants are competitive. The LEA must complete an application process. This process includes the completion of a needs assessment, root cause analysis of gaps, and the development of a plan that addresses how the funds will increase student achievement. Applications that meet the established criteria are awarded. Applications that do not meet the criteria are not awarded.
- ADE’s School Improvement Section has a system of support that monitors the implementation of the grant through the LEA. Funds can be discontinued if the LEA is not implementing the plan with fidelity or if the plan lacks results.
- All awarded LEAs are expected to be in compliance with all state and federal mandates. Lack of compliance can lead to discontinuing the grant funds. This includes being in compliance with all Charter Board rules and regulations.
- The awarded LEA must show fiscal health. The LEA cannot rely on the funds to stay in business, and funds can be discontinued if fiscal stability is in question.
- The awarding of funds should not influence Charter Board decisions. Although the charter holder did apply for competitive funds and was or was not awarded, the Charter Board should not use this to influence any decision on transfers or charter renewals.

## TIER I AND II AWARDS AND NON-AWARDS

Awards vary in amount, from \$381,000 to \$915,000 per year, for charter schools. These are three year grants. Charter holder must reapply each year. Grant requires LEA to implement one of four federally approved school improvement models:

### 2009 Tier I and II Funded

Currently in the second year of the grant.

La Puerta High School	OMEGA SCHOOLS d.b.a. Omega Academy
Imagine Elementary at Camelback	Imagine Charter Elementary at Camelback
Crittenton Youth Academy	Florence Crittenton Services
East Valley High School	Legacy Education Group
James Sandoval Preparatory High School	James Sandoval Preparatory High
Pima Prevention Partnership, Pima Partnership School	Pima Partnership School

### 2009 Tier I and II Not Funded (applied but were not awarded)

Mountain English Spanish Academy	Mountain English Spanish Academy*
Calli Ollin High School	CPLC Community Schools dba Calli
Academy of Arizona - Main	Academy of Arizona*
Hiaki High School	CPLC Community Schools dba Calli
Shonto Preparatory Technology High School	Shonto Governing Board of Education

\*School closed in 2010

### 2010 Tier I and II Funded

Currently in the first year of the grant.

CPLC Community Schools, Toltecalli High School	Toltecali High School
CPLC Community Schools, Hiaki High School	Hiaki High School

### 2010 Tier I and II Not Funded (applied but were not awarded)

OMEGA SCHOOLS d.b.a. Omega Academy, Inc.**	Oasis High School
Ira H. Hayes Memorial Applied Learning Center, Inc.	Ira H. Hayes High School

\*\*Omega was awarded a Capacity Building Grant with an ADE option to allow LEA to apply for extended funds if the LEA is able to complete the capacity building year one requirements.

**TIER III AWARDS, NON-AWARDS, AND CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE**  
**Awards vary in amount, from \$119,000 to \$200,000 per year, for charter schools.**  
**Tier III funds are available to the lowest performing Tier III schools in Improvement Status.**

**2009 Tier III Funded**

16 month grant ending this year 2011-2012.

E-cademie, A Charter School	E-Cademie*
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\*School closed in 2010

**2010 Tier III Funded**

16 month grant ending in 2012-2013.

Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter	Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh (3-5)
American Charter Schools	South Pointe High School
Phoenix Advantage Charter School,	Phoenix Advantage Charter School
South Pointe Public Charter Junior	South Pointe Junior High School
Tempe Accelerated Public Charter	Tempe Accelerated High School
Northern AZ Academy for Career Development	Northern AZ Academy – Taylor
Northern AZ Academy for Career Development	Northern AZ Academy – Winslow
Academy With Community Partners	Academy With Community Partners
Center for Academic Success, Inc.	Center for Academic Success #4
Center for Academic Success, Inc.	Center for Academic Success #2

**2010 Tier III Not Funded (applied but were not awarded)**

E.Q. Scholars, Inc.	Scholars Academy
StarShine Academy	StarShine Academy

**2011 Tier III Eligible**

Applications are due Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. These competitive funds are available to the **45 lowest performing schools** in Improvement Status not currently receiving Tier I or II School funds. This is a one year grant.

14 Charter schools are eligible to apply.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**School Improvement Grant and Tier I and II Approved Applications:**

<http://www.azed.gov/improvement-intervention/school-improvement-grant/>

**School Improvement Models and Requirements (see Chapter 4):**

[http://www.azed.gov/wp-content/uploads/PDF/Handbook\\_on\\_Effective\\_Implementation\\_of\\_School\\_Improvement\\_Grants.pdf](http://www.azed.gov/wp-content/uploads/PDF/Handbook_on_Effective_Implementation_of_School_Improvement_Grants.pdf)

**ADE School Improvement System of Support:**

<http://www.azed.gov/improvement-intervention/>

**School Improvement, NCLB Information:**

<http://www.azed.gov/improvement-intervention/esea-accountability-overview/>

**School Improvement, A-F Accountability Information:**

<http://www.azed.gov/improvement-intervention/a-f-overview-2/>