**Round 3**
**School Improvement Grant**
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**
**July 31, 2017**

1.  Will our district and/or school be locked into an "F" grade for the duration of the grant, even if the school improves to a higher grade? Will the school still be listed as Priority even when they are no longer a Priority school? *The priority label will be assigned until new accountability ratings are run for the purpose of identification (this will be based on the identification timeline established for ESSA which has not been finalized). Accountability ratings will not be frozen.*

2.  As a SIG Recipient, if our schools move to a higher performance level within the time frame of the grant, do we have to maintain the original rating until the grant period ends? *No, the school will not have to maintain the original rating of "F", if a higher accountability rating is earned, the school will be assigned the higher rating, however, the "Priority" or "Focus" label will be assigned until new accountability ratings are run for the purpose of identification (this will be based on the identification timeline established for ESSA which has not been finalized). Therefore, a SIG recipient could earn a "C" rating during the grant period, but still be identified as "Priority" or "Focus".*

3.  How many grants will be awarded? *The amount awarded will be determined based on the quality of the proposals, but awarded grants will receive a minimum of $50,000.*

4.  Is the webinar recorded and can we have a copy of the PowerPoint you went through? *The webinar and the PowerPoint presentation are posted to the school improvement website at http://www.mdek12.org/OSI.*

5.  Do you have sample approved plans? *Approved/awarded applications from Cohorts I-III can be found on the School Improvement webpage at http://www.mdek12.org/OSI/cohort-i-and-ii/archive.*

6.  For clarification, as a district, do we have to address every priority school for which we are not applying if we are applying for some of the schools? *As a district, you do not have to address every priority or focus school identified within the district. However, each identified school must be listed as directed within the RFP.*

7.  Do we have to facilitate additional community/school meetings if they were done during round 2? *Yes, it is recommended that stakeholder groups be re-engaged regarding the resubmission of the proposal to provide an opportunity for feedback relating to the resubmission.*

8.  Our local school board will not have a regularly scheduled meeting prior to the grant due date, may we submit the LEA Assurances after the board meeting? *Approval by the local school board is required. A completed grant application, including ALL required signatures must be submitted to the Office of Procurement on the designated date and by the designated time stated within the Round 3 RFP in order to be reviewed. Applications that do not contain the required components will not be reviewed.*