

School Improvement Grants—SIG (School Turnaround Grants in FY12 budget)

School Improvement Grants, section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), are used to improve student achievement in Title I schools that have been identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under the requirements for adequate yearly progress (AYP). Schools are assigned as Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III relative to their Title I status and the Persistently Lowest Performing Schools definition. Tier I and Tier II schools are guaranteed funding; Tier III schools are funded if there are monies remaining.

Once the schools are identified, they must use one of four models of improvement defined under the SIG legislation and the Non-Regulatory Guidance. These models are listed below with the features that are relevant to the use of Kurzweil 3000™ as a component of a Turnaround or Transformation model.

1. Turnaround Model includes:

- a. Ongoing, high-quality job-embedded professional development
- b. An instructional program that is research-based and vertically aligned
- c. The continuous use of student data

2. Restart Model is one in which a Local Education Agency (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.

3. School Closure occurs when an LEA closes a school and enrolls the students in other schools in the LEA that are higher achieving.

4. Transformation Model includes the following strategies:

- a. Developing and increasing teacher and school leader effectiveness
- b. Comprehensive instructional reform strategies

School Improvement programs are to be implemented in September 2011 with funds obligated by 2013 unless the State Education Agency requests a waiver under which the SIG funds do not have to be obligated until September 30, 2014 – a one year extension.

Kurzweil 3000™

Kurzweil 3000, is research based and enables struggling readers in grades 3 and above to learn from the same content as their peers by providing access to virtually any text or curriculum, including print, electronic, and Web-based documents through its core text-to-speech functionality. In addition, Kurzweil 3000 supports the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) enabling students of all abilities to engage with digital text. Kurzweil 3000 can be used at all levels within a multi-tiered system of support [such as Response to Intervention (RtI)] to improve students' academic performance.

Kurzweil 3000 provides for differentiation of instruction without differentiation of curriculum; access to all major digital file formats and printed materials; a single user interface with all the tools necessary for academic success; support for fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, study skills, and test-taking; research-based study skill and writing strategy tools; and a platform for whole class, small group, or individual instruction.

Kurzweil 3000 includes research-validated tools that support instructional best practices and are proven to help students learn.

SIG Requirements	Kurzweil 3000™ Features
Use and integrate technology-based supports and interventions as part of the instructional program	Kurzweil Educational Systems is a leader in assistive technology, text-to-speech and software literacy solutions for grade 3 through adult. Kurzweil 3000 is a comprehensive reading, writing, math and learning software solution for any struggling student, including students with disabilities, those with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorder or those who are English Language Learners.
Provide instructional materials that are research-based and that have data-based evidence of raising student achievement	Research supporting Kurzweil 3000 can be found in the paper <i>Scientifically-Based Research Validating Kurzweil 3000</i> that is located at: http://www.kurzweiledu.com/files/Kurzweil%203000%20Scientific%20White%20Paper.pdf . Validation studies are available at http://www.kurzweiledu.com/research.html .
Promote the continuous use of student data to inform and differentiate instruction	Kurzweil 3000 generates usage logs to track student statistics, including reading rate, dictionary use, length of reading sessions, and more.
Purchase materials aligned with State academic standards	Kurzweil 3000 makes the regular classroom curriculum accessible and is aligned to state academic standards through that curriculum.
Support students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment	Kurzweil 3000 makes the regular classroom program accessible to struggling students and students with disabilities which supports students in the least restrictive environment.
Ensure that limited English proficient students acquire language skills	Additional support for English Language Learners includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture dictionary with more than 1300 graphics in English and Spanish • Human voice pronunciations from American Heritage® Dictionary • Built in bilingual dictionary support (French, German, Italian, and Spanish) • Language translations "on the fly" with Google Translate™ • Multi-language recognition option • NeoSpeech Violeta for Spanish text to speech
Increase time for literacy instruction	Kurzweil 3000 takes advantage of current and portable technologies to broaden access and increase time for literacy beyond classroom-based and one-on-one instruction. The network version provides struggling students with access to content, assignments, tools and supports while in class, in resource rooms or information centers. USB or Web licensing versions provide access to content, assignments, tools and supports in any outside-of-school, after-school partner programs or other community learning setting, including home.
Provide professional development on new or revised instructional programs	Professional development focuses on much more than simple product features. Participants learn how to incorporate Kurzweil 3000 into lesson plans, enhance the core curriculum through technology, differentiate instruction and share proven ways to facilitate independent, scaffolded learning for students with diverse needs through whole class, small group or individual instruction. Our Implementation Services team includes educators who are experts in literacy, universal design, assistive technology, and educational technology integration.

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