



## **Alliance for Quality Education Proposal for Meaningful Public Participation in SIG School Turnaround Plans**

Sustainable turnaround depends on parent and community participation and buy-in into the design and implementation of the School Improvement Grants. This means:

- **Checks and balances. Allow the public to comment on SIG applications directly to the State Education Department during the SIG planning process and before the SIG grants are finalized.**
- **Public notice and transparency. Adequate and advance public notice and sufficient transparency are necessary conditions for turning around the lowest performing schools.**

### Proposal

1. Once school districts have a draft application, it should be posted on SED or the school district website or made available in the school buildings for review by parents and community members.
2. A notice should be posted on the SED homepage, school district website and/or in school buildings that parents and community members have the ability to provide comment to SED on their school district's School Improvement Grant application. The notice should be posted at least 72 hours prior to the deadline for submitting comment and should include:
  - a. where parents and community members can go to submit their comments,
  - b. where they can find the school district's SIG application.
3. Through an online tool or other mechanism, parents should be able to submit their comments directly to SED.
4. SED should review the comments submitted and consider them when providing feedback on districts' applications.
5. During the SIG planning process, districts should be required to hold a public forum where district personnel describe the content of the reform proposal, explain the impacts on the students, teachers, and the community, and take comments.