

Strategic Learning Initiatives: Operational Flexibility

Strategic Learning Initiatives is a non-profit registered in Illinois under the 501(c) 3 statute. The organizational structures include a Board of Directors, President, Vice President for Operations, Directors of program teams including the Education Program Director, the Shared Leadership Team, Professional Development Team, and Family Engagement team, Comptroller and administrative staff.

SLI staff and resources are able to support work with up to twenty to thirty schools and their districts through contracts, depending on the location of the districts in the USA. SLI has the capacity to work in the lowest income neighborhoods and rural areas with charter schools and regular public schools, with early childhood programs, family engagement programs in independent centers and K-12 schools. A key to the success of SLI in working with a wide variety of schools and in leading a number of transformation efforts is our ability to understand the improvement needs of the schools and be adaptive and flexible in our approach to working with the schools.

The following staff will be provided for each school for the implementation of SLI's SIG project: Project Director, Process Facilitator, Finance Coordinator, Shared Leadership Facilitator, Professional Development Facilitator, and two Family Engagement Facilitators. These staff will be used as process support, as described in the proposal document, on an as-needed basis for leadership, professional development and family engagement initial training, workshops, seminars, staff, leadership team and administrator coaching and modeling of school improvement strategies and processes. This level of staffing provides the maximum flexibility for any engagement.

The strength of the proposal submitted by SLI lies in its applicability to all K-12 school levels. The Focused Instruction Process (FIP) model has repeatedly demonstrated success across K-12 classrooms, in the lowest income neighborhoods around the country. It is a process that is continuously adjusted to meet diverse student needs, providing a level of flexibility that results in better utilization of resources and increased effectiveness.

Reference: Brandi Stubblefield, Learning Strategist, Lanphier High School, Springfield School District 186, bstubblefield@springfield.k12.il.us (217) 585-0939