

## Student Investment Account Frequently Asked Questions

Each week we will provide updates to our FAQs. If you have a question about the Student Success Act or the Student Investment Account, please direct inquiries to Chris Fritsch at [cfritsch@pendletonsd.org](mailto:cfritsch@pendletonsd.org).

### February 12, 2020

Q1. Can funds be used to compensate current employees, either in salary or benefits?

**Answer:** In most instances, the answer is no, funds are to be used to hire staff that are within the allowable areas or for materials and supplies that support the allowable areas. The funds could be used for salary if a district decided to extend the school day or the school year. Adding more daily time or days to the school calendar is not part of our plan.

Q2. What is the purpose of the SIA funds?

**Answer:** The purpose of these grant funds are to: 1) meet students' mental or behavioral health needs, and 2) increase academic achievement for students, including reducing academic disparities for the focal student populations.

Q3. What are the allowable uses of funds?

**Answer:** SIA funds can be used for any of the following:

- a. Increasing instructional time
- b. Addressing students' health or safety needs
- c. Reducing class size, which includes increasing instructional assistants
- d. Expanding availability of well-rounded learning experiences

Q4. Who are our focal student populations?

**Answer:** For the Pendleton School District, those populations would include Native American students, social and economically disadvantaged students, students with special needs and English language learners.

Q5. When will these new positions be posted?

**Answer:** Most of the positions are posted as of today, February 12, 2020. We are taking this aggressive approach since the best time for recruiting is between now and mid-April.

Q6. I see that a position states that it is "open until filled." What does that mean?

**Answer:** Open until filled means that once we feel we have a pool of qualified applicants for a position, usually at least 3-4 for any single position, we will organize interview teams to assist in the selection process. The timeframe varies from a matter of days from the initial posting of the position to weeks. Internal applicants that may be interested in a newly posted position should submit their intents immediately in order to be considered.

Q7. What if I didn't have a chance to fill out a survey or provide comments?

**Answer:** Stakeholder input is an ongoing requirement for continued release of grant funds. The District has previously conducted annual surveys for students, staff and parents and will continue to do so in the future. These surveys are administered in March and April. Many of the questions for all three groups are directly aligned to the input required by the Student Investment Account. In addition, all districts are to supply alternative plans and expenditures in the event we are unable to expend grant funds for the original plan(s).

**February 26, 2020**

Q8. What is the local levy option tax?

**Answer:** Every five years, school districts are allowed to put a local levy option before voters. These funds are to supplement the general fund for a district. The general fund is where most staff salary and benefits, operational costs, and supplies are paid.

Q9. What happens if we do not pass the levy or the District decides not to ask voters to approve the local tax?

**Answer:** For the Pendleton School District, that amount is approximately \$300,000 a year. If we did not receive the tax revenue, we would have to reduce our general fund by approximately \$300,000 a year.

Q10. Can't we use the new Student Investment Account funds to replace the revenue from the local tax?

**Answer:** No, the Student Investment Account funds are intended to address the mental health and behavior needs of students and to close the achievement gap for focal student groups. SIA funds cannot be used to supplement the general fund.