

## K-12 Education (I): Page 23

### Federal School Improvement Funds

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#### Existing School Improvement Programs

- ☑ **Program Improvement** (PI, \$55 million federal funds). California currently uses the bulk of its PI funds to support interventions for low-performing districts entering “corrective action.”
- ☑ **Quality Education Investment Act** (QEIA, \$402 million state funds). Supports efforts to reduce class size in grades 4-12 in select low-performing schools.

#### New School Improvement Program

- ☑ Federal government recently made significant changes to its PI program. New regulations:
  - Narrow focus from all schools/districts in PI to the bottom 5 percent “persistently lowest-achieving schools.”
  - Delineate four particular intervention strategies.
  - Change allowable per-school funding rates.
- ☑ \$552 million in federal funds available to implement revised PI program.
- ☑ Assembly and Senate both took action to create a new program for low-achieving schools consistent with federal regulations.

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Issues remain regarding what to do with state's existing school and district improvement programs.



**QEIA.** Governor and Assembly continue both state and federal programs for low-performing schools. Senate proposes streamlining programs by exempting districts from QEIA requirements if they have schools identified under both programs. Recommend adopting Senate approach, which has following benefits:

- Ensures schools subject to only one set of school improvement requirements.
- Generates \$113 million in annual state savings though 2012-13 while holding QEIA districts harmless.



**Existing District Intervention Program.** Governor, Assembly, and Senate plans all continue existing federal district intervention program despite new federal rules. Recommend eliminating existing district program. Eliminating the program would have the following benefits:

- Creates a single, coherent PI program.
- Frees up \$55 million in additional funds to support low-achieving schools. Generates additional state savings.
- Funds could still be used to support district-level improvement strategies.