



Turnaround project also brings in money

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The \$100 million federal Race to the Top funding won't be the only new money flowing into Delaware classrooms in the next few years.

In February, Delaware announced it would participate, with five other states, in a three-year \$75 million public-private school turnaround partnership with Mass Insight Education & Research Institute, a Boston-based nonprofit that has developed a program to turn around failing schools.

Under Mass Insight's program -- which has not been implemented anywhere yet, making Delaware a pilot state -- school districts and states will select local "lead" partners, outside groups that would become responsible for student outcomes. They would have the authority to select principals and oversee every program in the underperforming school.

The turnaround methods the schools will use may vary. Guidelines for grants describe four models: shutting down the school and sending students to higher-achieving schools; converting it to a charter school; bringing someone in from the outside to run it; or replacing the principal and at least 50 percent of the staff.

The Delaware program will start in the 2010-11 school year with two to four underperforming schools, which state officials said they will name this summer after 2010 state test scores are

reviewed.

Mass Insight and the states are committed to each raising \$15 million in private money for the program, while the remaining \$45 million will be public money, including federal Title I school improvement grants and Race to the Top money.

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