



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

August 21, 2013

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle,

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) respectfully requests approval of an amendment to Oklahoma's Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grants Application to extend the waiver previously granted under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1225(b), to extend the period of availability of the federal fiscal year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds awarded under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, until September 30, 2014. This request to extend the waiver, submitted pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the ESEA, would permit the OSDE, in accordance with criteria OSDE develops, to identify and allow local educational agencies (LEAs) applying for the next round of SIG funding (Cohort 4) to implement a pre-implementation period prior to the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

This amendment, if approved, would allow the SEA to invite schools applying for the next round of SIG funding (Cohort 4) to implement a pre-implementation period with the federal fiscal year 2009 funds prior to the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. Any federal fiscal year 2009 funds awarded to schools will be encumbered to support pre-implementation of the approved SIG intervention model. The awarded funds will be encumbered prior to September 30, 2014.

Due to the Budget Control Act of 2011 and other factors, including Oklahoma Census Data, Oklahoma's Title I allocation was significantly reduced. OSDE believes that the additional time is in the public interest and will enable qualifying LEAs to ensure their Cohort 4 schools are able to use remaining FY 2009 SIG funds to support initial efforts to implement the selected SIG intervention model prior to the beginning of the school year.

If the amendment seeking an extended waiver of the period of availability is approved, the OSDE assures it will:

- Review and approve an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver only if the LEA effectively used FY 2009 funds to carry out the SIG/Priority requirements to improve student achievement in accordance with section 9401(d)(2)(A) of the ESEA.
- Develop criteria to determine whether an LEA can adequately utilize funds to operate a pre-implementation phase for Cohort 4 school(s).
- Apply the criteria it develops to ensure that the LEA will use the funds to prepare the school(s) for full and effective implementation of a SIG intervention model in one or more Cohort 4 SIG schools,

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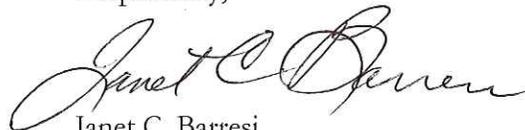
including reviewing and approving revised LEA budgets and plans for full and effective implementation of the model during the 2014-2015 school year, prior to approving an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver.

- Develop a technical assistance and support plan that outlines how it will support LEA implementation of intervention models for selected Cohort 4 schools that are approved to operate a pre-implementation period.
- Develop a monitoring plan for the 2013-2014 school year, specifically for LEAs that are approved to operate a pre-implementation period.
- Post, within 30 days of SEA approval, all LEA waiver requests on its public Web site and submit to the Department (via e-mail to oese.ost@ed.gov) the names of the LEAs (including their NCES District Identification Number) approved to implement the extended waiver, the schools (including their NCES School Identification Number) within those LEAs that will benefit from the extension of the period of availability of the funds, and, for each LEA and school, the amount of funds that will be extended.
- Continue to use SIG funds reserved at the SEA level to provide administrative and coaching efforts for SIG/Priority schools.

Prior to submitting this amendment requesting an extended waiver, the OSDE provided all LEAs in Oklahoma with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on the request. OSDE provided such notice to LEAs via email on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 (see copy of notice attached). Copies of all comments the OSDE received in response to this notice are attached hereto. OSDE also provided notice and information regarding this amendment to the public in the manner in which the OSDE customarily provides such notice and information to the public, by posting information regarding the waiver request on its Web site (see attached copy of public notice).

If you have any questions regarding this request please contact Amber Polach, Director, School Support/School Improvement, by phone at (405) 522-3253 or via email at Amber.Polach@sde.ok.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Janet C. Barresi
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education

JB:ap

cc: Mr. Richard Caram, Assistant State Superintendent, School Improvement, C³ Schools, School Choice
Ms. Sarrah Burleson, School Improvement Coordinator, School Support/School Improvement
Ms. Amanda Drew, Consultant, School Support/School Improvement