

**The Oklahoma State Department of Education Announcement:  
Public Notice and Comment**

August 14, 2013

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is providing this public notice to solicit comments from local educational agencies and the public regarding the specific waiver request to extend the period of availability for federal fiscal year 2009 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds until September 30, 2014.

The grant award was received by the Oklahoma State Department of Education in the spring of 2010. The award was allocated to Cohort 1 SIG sites for a three year period. The timing of the award allowed for districts to encumber and claim funds in Oklahoma fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013. If an extension is granted for the federal fiscal year 2009 funds, potential Cohort 4 SIG sites will be allowed a pre-implementation phase in the 2013-2014 school year to prepare for full implementation in the 2014-2015 school year. If the waiver is approved the funds must be encumbered prior to September 30, 2014.

Comments received will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education with the requested waivers. OSDE will accept comments between, Wednesday, August 14, 2013 and Wednesday, August 21, 2013, via electronic mail or U.S. mail.

**PURPOSE OF WAIVER:**

Oklahoma seeks this amendment requesting an extended waiver to allow potential Cohort 4 SIG sites to utilize a pre-implementation phase to prepare to fully and effectively implement the selected SIG intervention model prior in the 2014-2015 school year. Oklahoma believes 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 implementation of selected SIG intervention models.

The purpose of the waiver is to provide Oklahoma and its LEAs sufficient time to support continued school turnaround or transformation efforts. Oklahoma will ensure that SIG schools properly implement school reforms to ultimately improve the academic achievement of students.

**COMMENT SUBMISSIONS:**

Please submit comments in writing to Ms. Amber Polach, Director, School Support/School Improvement, Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 or electronically to Amber.Polach@sde.ok.gov.