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MEMORANDUM

An optional pilot program for the consolidation of funds is available this school year (2012-13) for sites meeting the following criteria:

- a) The site is designated as a Title I, Part A schoolwide site and possesses a current schoolwide plan
- b) The site has been designated a "Priority School" under the provisions of the ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

Consolidating funds in a schoolwide program allows a school to combine their financial resources as a single "pool" of funds. The funds from the contributing programs at the site level lose their individual identity and the school has one flexible pool of funds. The school uses funds from this consolidated schoolwide pool to upgrade the entire educational program and meet the intent and purposes of the Federal programs included in the consolidation. A schoolwide school must identify in its schoolwide plan which programs are included in its consolidation and the amount each program contributes to the consolidated schoolwide pool. [ESEA 1114(b)(2)(A)(iii)]

The Schoolwide Consolidation Opportunity

- Is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as an alternative means to better serve all children in a school by coordinating instructional programs and consolidating financial resources rather than operating categorical programs as separate services, and ensures that all students, particularly those who are low achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement on the state's academic achievement standards [ESEA 1114(a)(1)];
- Provides flexibility in spending Title I funds by giving schools greater latitude in determining how to spend their Title I, Part A funds [ESEA 1114(a)(2)];
- Permits Title I schoolwide schools flexibility to consolidate funds in support of the schoolwide program. In Oklahoma, the following federal programs may be consolidated with state and local funds:
 - Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies
 - Title I, Part C – Education of Migratory Children
 - Title I, Part D – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk
 - Title II, Part A – Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals
 - Title III – Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students
 - Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2 – Rural Low-Income Schools (RLIS)
 - Title VII, Part A – Indian Education
 - Title VIII – Impact Aid
 - IDEA, Part B – Assistance for Education of All Children with Disabilities
 - Title X – McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths
 - Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act

Participation in the Schoolwide Consolidation opportunity will require:

- Increased emphasis on a high-quality schoolwide school improvement plan based on a thorough comprehensive needs assessment;
- A solid site-level planning and decision making process evidenced in the schoolwide plan and required consolidation documentation;
- Strong internal fiscal and programmatic controls.

There are two ways to consolidate funds:

- Federal, State and local funds – A school would consolidate funding from Federal, State and local funding sources into a single consolidated schoolwide pool. [ESEA 1114(b)(2)(A)(iii)]
- Federal only – A school would consolidate its Title I, Part A funds and funds from other Federal education programs included in its comprehensive schoolwide program plan into a single Federal consolidated schoolwide pool. This practice may not be as effective as when a school consolidates Federal, State, and local funds because it does not give the school the flexibility to use all of its available resources to meet the identified needs of its students. [ESEA Section 1114(a)(3)(A) and (C)]