

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

November 2, 2012

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 FY 2012 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds until September 30, 2015. This waiver will allow the LEAs to have a full 39 month cycle to expend funds.

The grant award was received by the Oklahoma State Department of Education in the spring of FY2012. The award was allocated to Cohort 3 SIG sites July of FY2013. The timing of the award has allowed 15 months for districts to encumber and claim funds. If an extension is granted for these funds it will allow for Cohort 3 SIG sites to have a 39 month period to expend funds.

Comments received will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education with the requested waivers. OSDE will accept comments between, Friday, November 2, 2012 and Friday, November 16, 2012, via electronic mail or U.S. mail.

PURPOSE OF WAIVER:

Oklahoma was granted a waiver to implement a new accountability system referred to as the A-F School Grading Accountability System. While LEAs have been notified of their A-F Grades, schools have not been given the final School Improvement identification for their schools. Oklahoma anticipates providing the final School Improvement identification in early November 2012.

The purpose of the waiver is to give Oklahoma and its LEAs sufficient time to carry out the implementation timeline and grant requirements. Oklahoma must be able to ensure that SIG schools can properly implement school reforms to ultimately improve the academic achievement of students.

COMMENT SUBMISSIONS:

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