



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

June 14, 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) with Cohort 1 SIG/Priority schools additional time to expend remaining FY 2009 SIG funds in those schools.

This amendment, if approved, would apply to an LEA with one or more Tier I or Tier II SIG/Priority schools that began fully implementing a SIG intervention model at the start of the 2010–2011 school year (Cohort 1). Such an LEA, which is interested in implementing the extended waiver, would need to request and receive OSDE's approval.

The OSDE seeks this extended waiver to allow Oklahoma's Cohort 1 SIG schools additional time to sustain school reforms that will ultimately improve the academic achievement of students. 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 1 schools are able to use remaining FY 2009 SIG funds to support continued full and effective implementation of selected SIG intervention models for one additional year.

Attached to this request is a list of LEAs with remaining FY 2009 SIG funds that may seek this extension. The list includes the name of each school within the LEA that may use this extension and the amount of FY 2009 SIG funds remaining for each site. If the amendment seeking an extended waiver of the period of availability is approved, the OSDE assures it will:

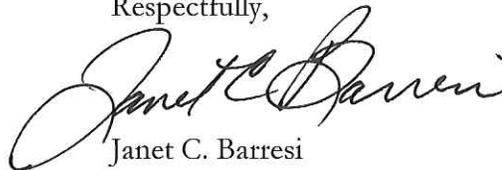
- Approve an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver only if the LEA effectively used FY 2009 funds to carry out the SIG/Priority final requirements to improve student achievement in accordance with section 9401(d)(2)(A) of the ESEA.
- Develop criteria to determine whether an LEA can continue to fully and effectively implement one of the models in its Tier I or Tier II Cohort 1 schools for an additional year.

- Apply the criteria it develops to ensure that the LEA will use the funds to fully and effectively implement a SIG intervention model in one or more Tier I or Tier II Cohort 1 SIG schools for one additional school year, including reviewing and approving revised LEA budgets and plans for continuing full and effective implementation of the model during the 2013-2014 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 continue to support LEA implementation of intervention models for selected Tier I or Tier II Cohort 1 schools that are approved to implement the extended waiver.
- Develop a monitoring plan for the 2013–2014 school year, specifically for LEAs that are approved to implement the extended waiver.
- 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 oesc.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 Thursday, June 6, 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 Gina Scroggins, Executive Director, School Support/School Improvement, by phone at (405) 521-4513 or via email at Gina.Scroggins@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, State Director, Office of C³
Ms. Gina Scroggins, Executive Director, School Support/School Improvement
Ms. Amber Polach, SIG Turnaround Director, School Support/School Improvement