



## OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

March 12, 2013

Deborah Delisle  
Assistant Secretary  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Room 3W 315  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle,

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is requesting a waiver to transfer School Improvement 1003(a) funds allocated to Farris Dependent School District to Lane Dependent School District.

On November 28, 2012, the Oklahoma State Department of Education received petitions for the annexation of Farris Dependent School District, as a result of disgruntled parents. On February 12, 2013, the community of Farris School District, by a majority vote of 143 to 14, approved the annexation of Farris Dependent School District to Lane Dependent School District.

According to Oklahoma's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver, Farris was designated a Priority School as a result of receiving a grade of F on their State Report Card. Farris was allocated \$61,000 in 1003(a) School Improvement Funds based on the designation of Priority School. These funds were not given to Farris due to the pending request for annexation and investigations of fraudulent spending by the current superintendent. The SEA is requesting to transfer 1003(a) School Improvement funds to Lane Dependent School District. Although Lane is not a Priority School, it now includes the students from Farris Dependent School District. There is a sense of urgency on the part of Lane Dependent School District to provide immediate and intensive interventions to these students. If Lane is allocated these funds, it would alleviate a tremendous fiscal burden put upon the school district unexpectedly and provide resources to students who have been underserved in a chronically low-performing school.

The No Child Left Behind Act, Section 1003(c) states, "*the State educational agency, in allocating funds to local educational agencies under this section, shall give priority to local educational agencies that (1) serve the lowest-achieving schools; (2) demonstrate the greatest need for such funds; and (3) demonstrate the strongest commitment to ensuring that such funds are used to enable the lowest-achieving schools to meet the progress goals in school improvement plans*" [§ 1116 (b) (3)(A)(v)].

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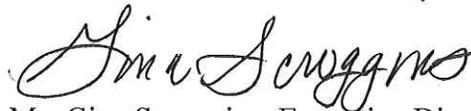
Lane Dependent School District is committed to providing immediate and intensive interventions to under-achieving students exhibiting the greatest need. Interventions may include, but are not limited to: extended learning time, summer learning experiences, Response to Intervention (RTI), intervention materials, and professional development for teachers in effective instructional strategies.

Prior to submitting this waiver request, Oklahoma will provide the public and all LEAs in the State with notice and opportunity to comment. Methods of notification will include, but may not be limited to, posting on the Oklahoma State Department of Education Web site, a message to the Oklahoma Title I Directors, District Superintendents, and the Oklahoma Title I Committee of Practitioners. Copies of comments that Oklahoma may receive from the public and LEAs will be attached to the waiver request.

Oklahoma hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, School Improvement 1003(a) funds will be used to support intensive interventions for students in need of immediate remediation as a result of ineffective instruction directly correlated with Farris Dependent School District.

For questions regarding this request please feel free to contact Gina Scroggins at (405) 521-4513 or via email at [Gina.Scroggins@sde.ok.gov](mailto:Gina.Scroggins@sde.ok.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ms. Gina Scroggins, Executive Director  
School Support/School Improvement  
Oklahoma State Department of Education

gs:

c: Janet C. Barresi, State Superintendent