

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

March 2, 2015

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 covering the Period of Availability of federal fiscal year FY2014 School Improvement Grant 1003(g) funds.

This waiver only applies to School Improvement Grant 1003(g) FY 2014 funds for the purpose of making five-year awards to eligible LEAs.

In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2016, waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2014 school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2020.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is applying for this grant award, spring of 2015. The grant award, if given to Oklahoma will be for Cohort 5 SIG Schools.

Comments received will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education with the requested waivers. OSDE will accept comments between, Thursday, March 5, 2015 and Thursday March 19, 2015.

PURPOSE OF WAIVER:

Oklahoma seeks this waiver to allow Cohort 5 SIG Schools to have the possibility of a five-year grant. Oklahoma believes the additional time is in the public's best interest and will enable qualifying LEAs to ensure their SIG/Priority schools are able to utilize SIG funds to support implementation of effective reforms and prepare for sustainability of such reforms.

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 Mrs. Iva Owens, Executive Directive Office of School Turnaround, Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 or electronically to iva.owens@sde.ok.gov.