

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

April 14, 2016

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is providing this public notice to solicit comment from local educational agencies and the public regarding the specific waiver request covering the period of availability of federal fiscal year FY2015 & FY2016 School Improvement Grant 1003(g) funds.

This waiver only applies to School Improvement Grant 1003(g) FY2015 & FY2016 funds for the purpose of making four-year awards to eligible LEAs.

In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2017 and September 30, 2018, waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY2015 and FY2016 school improvement funds for the SEA and all its LEAs to September 30, 2021.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is applying for this grant award, summer of 2016. The grant award, if given to Oklahoma will be for Cohort 6 and Cohort 7 SIG Schools.

Comments received will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education with the requested waivers. OSDE will accept comments between, Thursday, April 14, 2016 and Thursday, April 28, 2016.

PURPOSE OF WAIVER

Oklahoma seeks this waiver to allow Cohort 6 and Cohort 7 SIG Schools to have the possibility of a four-year grant. Oklahoma believes the additional time is in the public's best interest and will enable qualifying LEAs to ensure their SIG/Priority/Focus 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 transformation and reform 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. Beth Steele, SIG Turnaround Director, Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 or electronically to beth.steele@sde.ok.gov. This waiver only applies to School Improvement Grant 1003(g) FY2015 & FY2016 funds for the purpose of making four-year awards to eligible LEAs.