



JOY HOFMEISTER
STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

May 4, 2015

Nkemjika Ofodile, MSA, Ed.D.
Education Program Specialist
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 3W112
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Education Program Specialist,

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) would like to provide the following justification for the carryover request of FY13 SIG funds to Cohort 4:

- All Oklahoma Cohort 4 schools are rural with extremely high poverty rates. These additional funds could be used to support family and community school programs throughout the summer in preparation for the 2015-2016 school year.
- The state of Oklahoma started the 2014-2015 school year short approximately 1000 teaching positions and anticipating the same shortage for the upcoming school year. Cohort 4 schools could have the option to use the FY13 carryover funds as additional compensation to recruit, place, and retain staff with the skills needed to fully implement the transformation model (FY 2010 SIG Guidance, E-6).
- Cohort 4 would have the option to use FY13 carryover funds for quality professional development during the Oklahoma required 5 day Teacher Academy prior to the beginning of 2015-2016 school year. In addition, stipends to compensate teachers for the additional time outside of their standard contract days could be provided.

The Office of School Turnaround did consider options that included providing the carryover funds to sites in Cohort 2 and 3 and the potential Cohort 5. However, after careful review and consideration of the September 30, 2015 deadline, we felt the use of funds would be maximized if provided to the sites currently revising and implementing their improvement plans for the 2015-2016 school year.

Respectfully,

Beth Steele, Director
School Improvement Grants