



JOY HOFMEISTER

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

These are continuing to be challenging times, and we recognize that many schools and communities are facing unprecedented obstacles in the 2020-21 school year. Recently, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) extended an invitation to states to apply for additional program flexibilities under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program (Title IV, Part A). As a result, the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) intends to apply for a waiver of the following requirements in Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA):

- Section 4106(d) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, related to LEA needs assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Section 4106(e)(2)(C), (D), and (E) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to content-area spending requirements for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 Title IV, Part A funds.
- Section 4109(b) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to the fifteen percent spending limitation for technology infrastructure for FY 2020 Title IV, Part A funds.

Though this waiver was requested and received for the 2019-20 school year, we are grateful to the USDE for extending this opportunity for the current school year. This flexibility will further allow schools to best meet the needs of students and educators during the continued disruptions caused by the COVID-19 national emergency.

Prior to submitting its request, OSDE is providing the public and all local education agencies in the state with the opportunity to review and comment on the waiver request. Interested parties wishing to provide comment have through Friday, January 15, 2021, and should submit them to Monty.Guthrie@sde.ok.gov.