



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

March 10, 2017

Dr. Monique Chism
Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 3W112
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary,

The Oklahoma Department of Education (OSDE) is requesting a Tydings Waiver in order to extend the period of availability of school Improvement funds beyond September 30, 2017, for FY13 School Improvement Grant 1003(g), Grant Award Notification (GAN) 377A130037. In order to waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY13 school improvement funds for the SEA and all its LEAs to June 30, 2019 with the understanding all funds would be liquidated by September 29, 2019.

Oklahoma hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested Tydings Waiver, it will establish an internal policy requesting LEAs to submit monthly expenditure reports to ensure funds are spent in a timely manner and all SIG requirements are met.

- Oklahoma received GAN S377A130037 in the spring of 2014
- Oklahoma fully awarded all approved Cohort 4 sites in the spring of 2014
- Oklahoma allocated funds available July 1, 2014
- USDE requested OSDE submit a Tydings Waiver to reallocate funds to Cohort 4 in FY14
- USDE requested OSDE submit a Tydings Waiver to reallocate funds to Cohort 4 in FY15
- Oklahoma received GAN S377A140037



JOY HOFMEISTER

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Oklahoma fully awarded all approved Cohort 5 sites in the spring of 2015
- Oklahoma allocated funds available July 1, 2015
- USDE requested OSDE submit a Tydings Waiver to reallocate funds from Cohort 2 and 3 and award them to Cohort 4 and 5 in FY16
- USDE requested OSDE submit a Tydings Waiver to extend Cohort 4 to a fourth and fifth year with excess funding

The OSDE seeks this Tydings Waiver to allow the SEA to roll forward excess funds to sites in Oklahoma's Cohort 4 (FY13) that were originally awarded a three year School Improvement Grant. Since the original FY13 Grant, states applying for the FY14-FY16 School Improvement Grants were able to submit waivers to extend grants out beyond three years.

Oklahoma believes the additional time is in the LEA's best interest and will enable them to ensure their qualifying SIG/Priority/Focus schools are able to utilize SIG funds to support implementation of effective reforms and prepare for sustainability of such reforms. Cohort 4 schools will be required to submit year four and five SMART goals, and goals will be reviewed yearly ensuring the same student populations are making academic growth.

Cohort 4 schools will continue to follow the Oklahoma SIG requirements throughout year four and five which include: A school-based Transformation/Data Coach, ninety minutes of protected collaboration time per week for each teacher, minimum of five days of site-based training, five day teacher academy on school improvement initiatives and information about the requirements of the grant, and five day teacher academy for new teachers joining after the initial five day teacher academy.

Oklahoma will return all FY13 unspent funds to the U.S. Treasury by September 29, 2019.



JOY HOFMEISTER

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

Respectfully,

Beth Steele, Director
School Improvement Grants