



## OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 27, 2013

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle,

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) respectfully requests approval of an amendment to Oklahoma's Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grants Application to extend the waiver previously granted under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1225(b), to extend the period of availability of the federal fiscal year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds awarded under Section 1003(g) and 1003(g) ARRA of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, until September 30, 2014. Grant Award Notification numbers S377A090037A and S388A090037. This request to extend the waiver, submitted pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the ESEA, would permit the OSDE to allow local educational agencies (LEAs) to follow through with current implementation, specifically payment of performance pay for Oklahoma City Public Schools third year of Cohort 1 to the amount of \$1,067,139.00.

This amendment, if approved, would apply to an LEA with one or more Tier I or Tier II SIG/Priority schools that began fully implementing a SIG intervention model at the start of the 2010–2011 school year (Cohort 1). Due to the fact that Oklahoma state testing assessment data is not released until the fall (November) of 2013, the LEA is not able to encumber stipend pay based on reaching approved goals on or before September 30, 2013. If the LEA is allowed to encumber performance pay after September 30, 2013, they will be able to complete the third year of implementation of Cohort 1.

If the amendment seeking an extended waiver of the period of availability is approved, the OSDE assures it will:

- Review and approve an LEA's request to implement the extended waiver only if the LEA effectively used FY 2009 funds to carry out the SIG/Priority requirements to improve student achievement in accordance with section 9401(d)(2)(A) of the ESEA.

- Post, within 30 days of SEA approval, all LEA waiver requests on its public Web site and submit to the Department (via e-mail to [oese.ost@ed.gov](mailto:oese.ost@ed.gov)) the names of the LEAs (including their NCES District Identification Number) approved to implement the extended waiver, the schools (including their NCES School Identification Number) within those LEAs that will benefit from the extension of the period of availability of the funds, and, for each LEA and school, the amount of funds that will be extended.
- Continue to use SIG funds reserved at the SEA level to provide administrative and coaching efforts for SIG/Priority schools.

While submitting this amendment requesting an extended waiver, the OSDE will provide all LEAs in Oklahoma with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on the request. OSDE will provide such notice to LEAs via email on Monday September 30, 2013. Copies of all comments the OSDE receives in response to this notice will be forwarded to USDE. OSDE will also provide notice and information regarding this amendment to the public in the manner in which the OSDE customarily provides such notice and information to the public, by posting information regarding the waiver request on its Website. Documentation of post will be submitted to USDE with public comments.

If you have any questions regarding this request please contact Richard Caram, Assistant State Superintendent, School Improvement, C<sup>3</sup> Schools, School Choice by phone at (405) 522-0855 or via email at [Richard.Caram@sde.ok.gov](mailto:Richard.Caram@sde.ok.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Janet C. Barresi  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Oklahoma State Department of Education

JB:ad

cc: Dr. Janet C. Barresi, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Mr. Richard Caram, Assistant State Superintendent, School Improvement, C<sup>3</sup> Schools, School Choice  
Ms. Iva Owens, Director C<sup>3</sup> Schools  
Ms. Amanda Drew, School Improvement Consultant