

Notice of School Improvement Grant Waiver Request

Dear Title I Directors:

The final requirements for the School Improvement Grants, Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, invite state educational agencies (SEAs) to request waivers of certain requirements in order to allow local educational agencies (LEA) that receive those funds to use them in accordance with the final requirements and the LEA's application for such grant.

The Florida Department of Education will be soliciting the following waivers and is inviting comments on its request to:

- Waive section 1116(b)(12) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to allow their Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III Title I participating schools that will fully implement a turnaround or restart model beginning in the 2011-2012 school year to "start over" in the school improvement timeline.
- Waive the 40 percent poverty eligibility threshold in section 1114(a)(1) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to implement a schoolwide program in a Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold and is fully implementing one of the four school intervention models.

If you have comments on the proposed waiver request (attached), please submit them to bsa@fldoe.org by **January 12, 2011**.

Thank you,

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS TO: bsa@fldoe.org

The final requirements for the School Improvement Grants, Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, invite an SEA to request waivers of the requirements set forth below.

The Florida Department of Education requests a waiver of the requirements it has listed below. These waivers would allow any local educational agency (LEA) in the State that receives a School Improvement Grant to use those funds in accordance with the final requirements for School Improvement Grants and the LEA's application for a grant.

The State believes that the requested waiver(s) will increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools by enabling an LEA to use more effectively the school improvement funds to implement one of the four school intervention models in its Tier I or Tier II schools and to carry out school improvement activities in its Tier III schools. The four school intervention models are specifically designed to raise substantially the achievement of students in the State's persistently lowest-achieving schools.

Waive section 1116(b)(12) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to allow their Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III Title I participating schools that will fully implement a turnaround or restart model beginning in the 2011-2012 school year to "start over" in the school improvement timeline.

Waive the 40 percent poverty eligibility threshold in section 1114(a)(1) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to implement an schoolwide program in a Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold and is fully implementing one of the four school intervention models.

The State assures that it will ensure that any LEA that chooses to implement these waivers will comply with section I.A.7 of the final requirements.

The State assures that it will permit an LEA to implement the waiver(s) only if the LEA receives a School Improvement Grant and requests to implement the waiver(s) in its application. As such, the LEA may only implement the waivers(s) in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools, as applicable, included in its application.

The State assures that, prior to submitting this request in its School Improvement Grant application, the State provided all LEAs in the State that are eligible to receive a School Improvement Grant with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request and has attached a copy of that notice as well as copies of any comments it received from LEAs.

The State also assures that it provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner in which the State customarily provides such notice

and information to the public (*e.g.*, by publishing a notice in the newspaper; by posting information on its Web site) and has attached a copy of, or link to, that notice.

The State assures that, if it is granted one or more of the waivers requested above, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education a report that sets forth the name and NCES District Identification Number for each LEA implementing a waiver, including which specific waivers each LEA is implementing.