



Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services

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Notice of Intent to Submit School Improvement Grant Waiver Request Public Comment Period

The Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) is requesting from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) a waiver from certain provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the General Education Provisions Act. The waiver is being sought to assist with the successful implementation of the School Improvement Grants Section 1003(g).

The Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) is soliciting comments— both supporting and non-supporting — on the waiver. All comments submitted during the comment period will be read and taken into consideration. Providing comments to the KSDE does not guarantee all comments will be implemented. The Kansas State Department of Education will include all written comments received in its waiver request to ED.

This notice meets the notification requirements under Section 9401(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. **Districts and the public are invited to submit written comments to the KSDE no later than 5:00 PM (CST) on July 27, 2016.** Written comments should be submitted to Sandy Guidry at sguidry@ksde.org.

The KSDE is requesting the following waiver on behalf of the State (SEA) and appropriate districts (LEAs):

- Waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability for FY2014 Section 1003(g) school improvement funds for the State and all applicable LEAs to September 30, 2020.

Following is the full text of the waiver request.

The State of Kansas requests a waiver of the requirement it has listed below. This waiver would allow local educational agencies (LEA) in the State that receive School Improvement Grants (SIG) under Section 1003(g) to use those funds in accordance with the final requirements for School Improvement Grants and the LEA's approved application for a grant.

Kansas believes that the requested waiver will increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students in Priority Schools by enabling an LEA to use more effectively the school improvement funds to implement one of the four school intervention models in its Priority Schools. The four school intervention models are specifically designed to raise substantially the achievement of students in these identified schools. The approved schools will be limited to five years of grant funding to implement their SIG models.

- Waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY2012 Section 1003(g) school improvement funds for the SEA and all applicable LEAs to September 30, 2015 in order to ensure these funds are available to the identified schools for the three years in which they implement their grants.*

The State assures that it will ensure that any LEA that chooses to implement the waiver will comply with section II.A.8 of the final requirements.

The State assures that it will permit an LEA to implement the waiver only if the LEA receives a School Improvement Grant. As such, the LEA may only implement the waiver in applicable Priority Schools per the approved application.

The State assures that it 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. Any comments received from LEAs or the public by March 15, 2013 will be forwarded to the US Department of Education. 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 by posting information on the KSDE website at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=579>