



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Commissioner

April 15, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Paula White, Executive Director
Office of Regional Achievement Centers

SUBJECT: Opportunity to Comment on Waiver Request

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) offers an opportunity to provide comment regarding a waiver request to the United States Department of Education (USDE) for an extension of the availability of New Jersey's School Improvement Grants funds.

School Improvement Grants (SIG), authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), are grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) that SEAs use to make competitive subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to raise substantially the achievement of students in their lowest-performing schools.

Under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (the "Tydings Amendment"), FY 2014 funds must be obligated by September 30, 2016. The NJDOE has requested a waiver to extend the period of availability of FY 2014 School Improvement Grant funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2020. These funds, along with the FY 15 SIG allocation, will be used for a new Cohort 4 competition during the 2015-16 school year. Awardees will begin the planning year or full implementation at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

LEAs and the public may comment on this request at our Title I website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/nclb/waiver/>. NJDOE will submit copies of comments received to the USDE after the comment period closes on May 22, 2015.

c: Members, State Board of Education
David C. Hespe, Commissioner
Senior Staff
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Executive County Superintendents
Executive County Business Officials
NJ LEE Group
Garden State Coalition of Schools