



## Wyoming Department of Education

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### MEMORANDUM NO: 2010-025

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Brian Wright, Title I Program Director  
Federal Programs Unit 

**DATE:** February 5, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Title I 1003 g School Improvement Funds Waiver Requests

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is in the process of completing an application for 1003 g School Improvement Funds with the US Department of Education (USED). Within this application, the WDE can request to waive certain requirements associated with these funds. The Wyoming Department of Education will be submitting the waiver requests and are required to provide all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Wyoming with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on these requests.

The waivers the WDE will be requesting are as follows:

- Waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b), to extend the period of availability of school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2013.
- Waive section 1116(b) (12) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to allow their Tier I and Tier II Title I participating schools that will implement a turnaround or restart model 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 or Tier II Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold.

School District Superintendents  
Memorandum No. 2010-025  
February 5, 2010  
Page 2

The section of the application detailing the waiver requests is attached to this memo.

On February 2, 2010, the WDE began notifying stakeholders of these waiver requests by announcements at meetings, via e-mail and followed with this Superintendent's Memo. All public comments will be compiled and submitted to the US Department of Education with these waiver requests. Public comment will be accepted until close of business on February 12, 2010. If you wish to make public comments on any or all waiver requests, please send to Brian Wright, State Title I Director, at 307-777-5792 or [bwright@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:bwright@educ.state.wy.us). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brian Wright at the above contacts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Attachment

**Wyoming** 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 Tier I and Tier II schools.

- ✓ Waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2013.
- ✓ Waive section 1116(b) (12) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to allow their Tier I and Tier II Title I participating schools that will implement a turnaround or restart model 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 or Tier II Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold.

The State assures that it will ensure that any LEA that chooses to implement one or more of these waivers will comply with section II.A.8 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 waiver(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.