



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-062

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Beth VanDeWege, Education Consultant
Federal Programs Division

DATE: April 9, 2012

SUBJECT: Request for Public Comment on Waivers Needed for Application for FY11 Title I 1003(g) School Improvement Grant Funds.

Note: This Memo Supersedes Memorandum No. 2012-057 REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is inviting public comment on the following waivers it is applying for in connection with its application for FY11 Title I 1003(g) School Improvement Grant Funds. The comment period will be one month beginning April 2 through May 2, 2012.

School Improvement Grants (SIGs) background: They are authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I or ESEA). These are grants given to State Educational Agencies (SEAs) which are used to make competitive sub-grants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that demonstrate the greatest need and the strongest commitment to use the funds to substantially raise the achievement of students in their lowest-performing schools. Under the final requirements published in the *Federal Register* on October 28, 2010 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-10-28/pdf/2010-27313.pdf>), school improvement funds are to be focused on each State's "Tier I" and "Tier II" schools. Tier I schools are defined as the lowest-achieving five percent of a State's Title I schools and Title I secondary schools, which are in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring with graduation rates below 60 percent in two out of the last three years. Tier II schools are defined as the lowest-achieving five percent of a State's secondary schools that are eligible for, but do

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not receive, Title I, Part A funds, along with graduation rates below 60 percent in two out of the last three years. An LEA may also use school improvement funds in Tier III schools. Tier III schools are defined as Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that are not identified as Tier I or Tier II schools. If a State so chooses, certain additional Title I eligible (participating and non-participating) schools (“newly eligible” Tier III schools) may also be classified as a Tier III school.

New list waiver

Because Wyoming has not elected to generate new lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools, waive Sections I.A.1 and II.B.10 of the SIG final requirements to permit the State to use the same Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III lists it used for its FY 2010 competition.

School improvement timeline waiver

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 2012–2013 school year to “start over” in the school improvement timeline.

Assurances Required

The State assures that it will permit an LEA to implement this waiver only if the LEA receives a School Improvement Grant and requests the waiver in its application as part of a plan to implement the turnaround or restart model beginning in 2011–2012 in a school that the SEA has approved it to serve. As such, the LEA may only implement the waiver in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools, as applicable, included in its application.

The State assures that, if it is granted this waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education a report that sets forth the name and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) District Identification Number for each LEA implementing a waiver.

Schoolwide program waiver

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.

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Assurances Required

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

The State assures that, if it is granted this waiver, 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.

If you would like to comment, please go to the Wyoming Department of Education web site at www.edu.wyoming.gov and select the link for public comment on these waiver requests. If you have questions please contact Beth VanDeWege at (307)777-8964 or beth.vandewege@wyo.gov or, contact David Holbrook at (307)777-6260 or david.holbrook@wyo.gov.

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