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MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-063

TO: School District Superintendents

School District Title I Directors

School Principals

FROM: Sean McInerney

Supervisor of Accountability

DATE: May 26, 2015

SUBJECT: School Choice Notification Waiver

COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED 2015-16 SCHOOL CHOICE NOTIFICATION WAIVER

The Wyoming Department of Education is requesting public comment regarding a request for a one-year waiver of Title I, Part A. Federal law (34 C.F.R. § 200.37(b)(4)(iv)) requires Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to provide parents of eligible students with notice of their public school choice options at least 14 days before the start of the school year.

The WDE is requesting this waiver for Title I schools because Wyoming implements the ACT Plus Writing as its high school accountability assessment (per requirements in state statute), and the results will not be delivered by July 17, 2015. This delivery date means that Adequate Yearly Progress results will not be publicly available until September 4, 2015.

This waiver would apply only with respect to students in Title I schools that are newly identified for improvement for the 2015-2016 school year, or Title I schools that could possibly have exited improvement, corrective action, or restructuring for the 2014-2015 school year, but did not (i.e. Title I schools identified as in "warning" or "holding" status for the 2014-2015 school year). All other Title I schools not identified as in "warning" or "holding" status for the 2014-2015 year will be required to comply with the requirements and notify parents at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the school year of the public school choice option.

The WDE will be releasing updated guidance and processes for LEAs regarding this matter in the near future.

The ten-day comment window on this waiver request will run from May 26 to June 5, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. Please direct comments to Sean McInerney at sean.mcinerney@wyo.gov or Scott Bullock at seat.bullock1@wyo.gov.

Attachment:

Draft waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education