



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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April 28, 2014

Ms. Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary for the
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, District of Columbia 20202

Dear Ms. Delisle:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland State Department of Education to request approval of an amendment to Maryland's Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 School Improvement Grants Application under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1225(b), to extend the period of availability of the fiscal year (FY) 2012 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds awarded under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), until September 30, 2015. This request, submitted pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the ESEA, would permit the Maryland State Department of Education, in accordance with criteria Maryland develops, to identify and allow local educational agencies (LEAs) with SIG II schools additional time to expend remaining FY 2012 SIG funds in those schools.

The Maryland State Department of Education believes that the additional time is in the public interest and will enable qualifying LEAs to ensure that their SIG II schools are able to use remaining FY 2012 SIG funds to support continued full and effective implementation of selected SIG intervention models for one additional year.

Below is a list for each LEA with the amount of FY 2012 SIG funds remaining and the name of each school within the LEA that would use this extension.

Local Education Agency (LEA)	LEA	SIG II Schools	NCES	Tier	Tier
	NCES ID	Cohort 2	Number	I	II
Baltimore City Public School System Unspent funds as of April 1, 2014: <u>\$2,061,379</u> 33% spent down	2400090	Cherry Hill Elementary/ Middle	24000900017	X	
		Benjamin Franklin High School @Masonville Cove	240009000157		X
		Frederick Douglass High School	240009000209		X
Prince George's County Public Schools Unspent funds as of April 1, 2014: <u>\$1,870,287</u> 44% spent down	2400510	Oxon Hill Middle School	240051001471		X
		Thomas Johnson Middle School	240051001175		X

If the amendment seeking the waiver of the period of availability is approved, the Maryland State Department of Education assures that:

- For each LEA with remaining FY 2012 SIG funds that has a school that would apply for this waiver, and for each of those schools within the LEA that would use this waiver, the amount of funds remaining.
- The state education agency (SEA) will approve an LEA's request to implement the waiver only if the LEA has effectively used FY 2012 funds to carry out the SIG final requirements to improve student achievement, in accordance with section 9401(d)(2)(A) of the ESEA.
- The SEA will develop criteria that will enable it to determine whether an LEA can continue to fully and effectively implement one of the models in its Tier I or II SIG II schools for an additional year.
- Prior to approving an LEA's request to implement the waiver, the SEA will apply the criteria it develops to ensure that the LEA will use the funds to fully and effectively implement a SIG intervention model in one or more Tier I or Tier II SIG II schools for one additional school year, including by reviewing and approving revised LEA budgets and plans for continuing full and effective implementation of the model during the 2014-2015 school year.
- The SEA will develop a technical assistance and support plan that outlines how it will continue to support LEAs' implementation of the intervention models for the selected Tier I and Tier II SIG II schools that are approved to implement the waiver.
- The SEA will develop a monitoring plan for the 2014–2015 school year, specifically for the LEAs that are approved to implement the waiver.
- Within 30 days of the SEA's approving LEA requests to implement the waiver, the SEA will post on its public website and submit to the Department (via e-mail to oesc.ost@ed.gov) the names of the LEAs (including their Nation Center for Education Statistics (NCES) District Identification Number) it has approved to implement the waiver, the schools (including their NCES School Identification Number) within those LEAs that will benefit from the extension of the period of availability of the funds, and, for each LEA and school, the amount of funds that will be extended.

Prior to submitting this amendment requesting the waiver, the Maryland State Department of Education provided all LEAs in Maryland with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on the request. The Maryland State Department of Education provided such notice by sending a letter to each LEA on Friday, April 11, 2014, via email (see copy of notice attached). Copies of all comments that the Maryland State Department of Education received from LEAs in response to this notice are attached hereto. The Maryland State Department of Education has also provided notice and information regarding this amendment to the public in the manner in which the Maryland State Department of Education customarily provides such notice and information to the public by posting information regarding the waiver request on its website from April 11, 2014 through April 25, 2014 (see attached copy of public notice).