



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Christina Grant  
State Superintendent of Education  
Office of the State Superintendent of Education  
1050 First Street, N.E., Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Superintendent Grant:

I am writing in response to the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE's) request on March 7, 2022, for a waiver of the requirement in section 1003(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to extend the allowable duration of subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) from four to six years, consistent with its revised State-determined timeline for exit criteria. Under the requested waiver, OSSE will grant LEAs receiving ESEA section 1003 school improvement funds an additional two years to implement the initiatives needed to improve student performance and to additionally address unfinished learning and gaps deepened by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. OSSE asserts that the additional time will allow LEAs to advance student academic achievement by enabling schools to maintain continuity in supporting their students and implementing revised plans for demonstrating significant progress and improvement in student performance and readiness.

After carefully considering OSSE's request, pursuant to my authority under section 8401(b) of the ESEA, I am approving the requested waiver for the 2022-2023 school year. This will allow OSSE to extend, for an additional fifth or sixth year, a subgrant to an LEA to implement school improvement interventions for schools previously identified for improvement. OSSE has demonstrated that the requested waiver will advance student academic achievement in those schools receiving ESEA section 1003 funds.

I appreciate the work you and your staff are doing to support and improve schools in the District of Columbia. If you have any questions, please contact Fatimah Abdullahi of my staff at [OESE.titlei-a@ed.gov](mailto:OESE.titlei-a@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

James F. Lane, Ed. D.  
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary  
Delegated the Authority to Perform the  
Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Donna Johnson, Director of Accountability, OSSE

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