

OSSE Plans to Request Waivers Related to 1003(g) School Improvement Grants; Invites Comments from LEAs by February 8th

In its upcoming School Improvement Grant application to the U.S. Department of Education, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education proposes to request waivers of two statutory requirements. These waivers will affect LEAs that apply for and receive Section 1003(g) School Improvement Grants for Federal Fiscal Year 2009, along with the schools/campuses the LEAs serve with those funds. The OSSE plans to apply for these waivers on behalf of all such LEAs in the District. If the OSSE receives approval from the Department, LEAs will need to indicate their intention to implement one or both of the waivers as part of the LEA application for these funds, which will be released after OSSE receives approval of its SEA application.

The requests are to:

- 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.

More Information about School Improvement Grants

School Improvement Grants made available under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will be used primarily to fund interventions in the District’s persistently lowest achieving schools. While LEAs with other schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring may later apply for awards if sufficient funds are available, only LEAs with one or more persistently lowest achieving schools will be eligible to apply in Phase I. [Click here](#) for a preliminary list of the District’s persistently lowest achieving schools. Additional information regarding School Improvement Grants made available under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html>.

Webinar

OSSE will host a 30-minute webinar/conference call on Thursday, February 4, 2010, at 2:00 P.M. to discuss these waivers and the District’s School Improvement Grant application generally. [Click here to register](#). The conference call number is 1-800-516-9896; the participant code is 1191151793.

Comments

LEAs wishing to comment on these proposed waiver requests should submit their comments in writing to osse.comments@dc.gov by noon on Monday, February 8, 2010. Any comments submitted will be included, without identifying information, in the District’s School Improvement Grant application to the U.S. Department of Education. Comments submitted at or after 12:01 P.M. on Monday, February 8th will not be considered or included.

For additional information on these planned waiver requests, please contact Jeremy Skinner at (202) 724-2343 or via email at jeremy.skinner@dc.gov.