



BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
6th FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

KEVIN HUFFMAN
COMMISSIONER

May 20, 2011

Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)
Headquarters - LBJ Education Building, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Meléndez de Santa Ana:

I am writing to request a waiver to carry over 100 percent of the School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g) funds to local education agencies (LEAs) from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 competition. The LEA 1003(g) funds, not SEA 1003(g) administrative funds, will be carried over and awarded along with the FY 2011 competition. The Tennessee Department of Education agrees to carry over these funds and assures that it will not draw down any of the LEA 1003(g) funds until Tennessee Department of Education receives approval of its FY 2010 SIG application.

The Tennessee Department of Education also agrees to finalize and gain approval of our definition of persistently lowest-achieving schools contained in section I.A.3 of the final requirements for the SIG program (74 FR 65618 [Dec. 10, 2009]) prior to July 1, 2011.

Moreover, the Tennessee Department of Education believes that approval of this waiver will allow it to use the coming year to change policies, laws, procedures, etc., enabling the Tennessee Department of Education to fully implement any of the four models during the 2012-13 school year.

The Tennessee Department of Education assures that it provided all LEAs in the State that are eligible to receive a SIG grant with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request and has attached a copy of that notice. To expedite its waiver request, the Tennessee Department of Education will submit subsequent copies of any comments it receives from LEAs. The Tennessee Department of Education also assures that it provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner in which the State customarily provides such notice and information to the public (e.g., by publishing a notice in the newspaper; by posting information on its website) and has attached a copy of, or link to, that notice.

Please feel free to contact Debbie.Owens@tn.gov or me if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Huffman /PS".

Kevin Huffman

KSH/DEO:bc

Attachment

c: Dr. Debra Owens, Chief Officer, Division of LEA Support and Improvement
Gwendolyn Watson, Deputy Superintendent, Achievement School District