

FY 2012 SIG 1003(g) Request for Comments

As part of Missouri's FY 2012 Title I, 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG) application we are requesting the following waivers. The waivers would only apply to schools funded with FY 2012 Title I, 1003(g) SIG funds in the 2013-2014 school year. Only schools designated as a Priority school and not previously funded with Title I, 1003(g) SIG will be eligible to apply for this funding and be impacted by these waivers. Missouri believes that the requested waivers will increase its ability to implement the SIG program effectively in eligible schools in the State in order to improve the quality of instruction and raise the academic achievement of students in Priority schools.

Waiver 4: Priority schools list waiver

In order to enable the State to replace its lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools with its list of Priority schools under ESEA flexibility, waive the school eligibility requirements in Section I.A.1 of the SIG final requirements.

Assurance

The State assures that, through its request for ESEA flexibility, its priority school definition provides an acceptable alternative methodology for identifying the State's lowest-performing schools and thus is an appropriate replacement for the eligibility requirements and definition of PLA schools in the SIG final requirements.

Missouri requests a waiver of the requirement it has indicated below. The waiver would allow any local educational agency (LEA) in the State that receives a School Improvement Grant to use those funds in accordance with the final requirements for School Improvement Grants and the LEA's application for a grant.

The State believes that the requested waiver will increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students in Priority schools by enabling an LEA to use more effectively the school improvement funds to implement one of the four school intervention models in its Priority schools. The four school intervention models are specifically designed to raise substantially the achievement of students in the State's Priority schools.

Waiver 6: Schoolwide program waiver

Waive the 40 percent poverty eligibility threshold in section 1114(a)(1) of the ESEA to permit LEAs to implement a schoolwide program in a Priority Title I participating school that does not meet the poverty threshold and is fully implementing one of the four school intervention models.

Assurances

The State assures that it will permit an LEA to implement this waiver only if the LEA receives a School Improvement Grant and requests to implement the waiver in its application. As such, the LEA may only implement the waiver in Priority III schools, as applicable, included in its FY12 application.

The State assures that, if it is granted this waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education a report that sets forth the name and NCES District Identification Number for each LEA implementing a waiver.

Missouri has requested and received the schoolwide program waiver for the 2012-2013 school year.

Please send comments to Craig.Rector@dese.mo.gov by February 13, 2013.