

May 2, 2016

Ann Whalen
Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Whalen:

On behalf of Missouri, I am writing to request a waiver of the requirement in Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2012 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds for the State Education Agency (SEA) and all of its Local Education Agencies (LEAs) from September 30, 2016 to September 30, 2018. Missouri requests a carryover of FY 2012 funding that remains from Missouri's Cadre III LEA grant awards to combine with FYs 2014-16 funding in order to run a new larger competition in summer 2016. The extension of the availability of funds would allow for the provision of granting up to five-year awards to LEAs that are approved for funding in the 2016 competition.

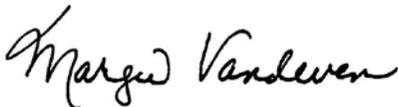
If granted the waiver, Missouri assures that:

- It will require each LEA receiving FY 2012 funds to expend them in accordance with the final requirements for the SIG program; and
- It will provide continued funding for each of the SIG schools in this cohort, based on the criteria outlined in the school's approved SIG application and consistent with the U.S. Department of Education's guidance.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is providing all LEAs in the State with notice of the waiver request and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request. Missouri posted the notice in the Department's electronic Federal Programs' ListServ for school district staff who work with federal programs. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is accepting comment on this request through May 16, 2016. Any comments received in response to this request will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education.

Please feel free to contact Craig Rector by phone at 573-526-1594 or by email at craig.rector@dese.mo.gov if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education

c: Joseph Suh, U. S. Department of Education
Stacey Preis, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services
Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Quality Schools
Craig Rector, Coordinator, Grants and Resources
Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator, School Improvement