Missouri
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION

Margaret M. Vandeven, Ph.D. • Commissioner of Education

205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 • dese.mo.gov

June 2, 2015

Dr. Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle:

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 2014 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, 2020. Missouri requests a carryover of FY 2014 funding to combine with FY 2015 funding in order to run a new larger competition in spring 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 not obligate or draw down any of its FY 2014 funds until it receives approval of its subsequent FY 2015 SIG application;
- It will require each LEA receiving FY 2014 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 United States 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 provided such notice by posting the notice in the Department's electronic list serve for school district staff who work with federal programs, FedPro. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is accepting comment on this request through June 15, 2015. Any comments received in response to this request will be forwarded to the United States Department of Education.

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Please feel free to contact Craig Rector, Coordinator of Grants and Resources, at (573) 526-1594 or at craig.rector@dese.mo.gov if you have any questions regarding this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margie Vandeven

Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education

c: Stacey Preis
Chris Neale
Robin Coffman
Craig Rector
Jocelyn Strand