

FY 2010 SIG 1003(g) Request for Comments

Missouri is requesting a waiver of the requirement in Section I.A.2(d)(1)(i)(B) of the final requirements for the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program, which requires a local educational agency (LEA) to develop and implement teacher and principal evaluation systems that meet certain requirements during the first year a school is implementing the transformation model. Those systems must be rigorous, transparent, and equitable and take into account data on student academic growth as a significant factor as well as other factors, such as multiple observation-based assessments of performance, ongoing collections of information on professional practice reflective of student achievement, and increased high school graduation rates.

This waiver would permit the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MODESE), in accordance with criteria Missouri develops, to permit an LEA that is implementing the transformation model in one or more schools to take additional time to develop and implement high-quality evaluation systems that meet these requirements.

This waiver would apply only to evaluation systems for cohort 1 and cohort 2 SIG schools as follows:

- A school that began implementing the transformation model during the 2010–2011 school year (cohort 1) and that was not able to complete the development and implementation of its evaluation systems during that year must develop them during the 2011–2012 school year and, at a minimum, pilot them for all teachers and principals no later than the 2012–2013 school year. The piloted systems should be capable of being used for decisions regarding, for example, retention, promotion, compensation, and rewards, no later than the 2013–2014 school year.
- A school that begins implementing the transformation model in the 2011–2012 school year (cohort 2) must develop its evaluation systems during that year, pilot them for all teachers and principals during the 2012–2013 school year, and use the system in the school, including for decisions regarding, for example, retention, promotion, compensation, and rewards, no later than the 2013–2014 school year.

Districts that request the waiver must assure that they will comply with the requirements set forth in the Department’s waiver request letter. The letter can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/qs/fedprog/sig/> .

Please send comments to jocelyn.strand@dese.mo.gov by January 31, 2012.