

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**To:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public Schools  
Charter School Administrators

**Date:** April 9, 2014

**From:** Ken Slentz

**Subject:** Proposed Amendment to New York State's FY 2009 School Improvement Grants Application – Opportunity to Comment

Section 1003(g) of Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 provides federal funding through State Educational Agencies (SEAs) to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) with identified lowest-achieving schools that have demonstrated the greatest need and the strongest commitment to use the funds to improve the achievement of their students. The State Education Department applies for these funds on behalf of the LEAs of New York State.

The purpose of this memo is to provide all LEAs with notice and opportunity to comment on a proposed amendment to New York State's FY 2009 School Improvement Grant application. Pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, the United States Department of Education has invited New York State to amend its FY 2009 School Improvement Grant application for the purpose of extending a waiver previously granted under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1225(b). Approval of the amendment would result in extension of the period of availability of FY 2009 School Improvement Grant funds to September 30, 2015 and provide LEAs with cohort 2 SIG-funded schools additional time to expend the funds in those schools. The Department believes that use of unexpended funds for one additional year in cohort 2 SIG schools will enable the schools to support continued full and effective implementation of their selected SIG intervention model, ultimately increasing the quality of instruction provided to students and improving their academic achievement.

Should the amendment be approved, New York State assures the following:

- The Department will provide the amount of funds remaining to each LEA with SIG-funded cohort 2 schools that applies for the additional year of implementation.

- The Department will approve an LEA's request for an extension only if the LEA has effectively used FY 2009 funds to carry out the SIG final requirements and improve student achievement.
- The Department will develop criteria that will enable it to determine whether an LEA can continue to fully and effectively implement the selected intervention model(s) in its cohort 2 SIG school(s) for an additional year.
- Prior to approving an LEA's request for an extension, the Department will apply the criteria to ensure that the LEA will use the funds to fully and effectively implement the selected SIG intervention model in its cohort 2 SIG school(s) for one additional school year, including reviewing and approving revised LEA budgets and plans for the 2014-2015 school year.
- The Department will develop a technical assistance and support plan that outlines how it will continue to support LEAs' implementation of the intervention model(s) for the cohort 2 SIG schools that are approved for an extension.
- The Department will develop a monitoring plan for the 2014–2015 school year, specifically for the LEAs that are approved for an extension.
- Within 30 days of Department approval of LEA requests for extensions, the Department will post on its public website the LEAs approved for extensions, the cohort 2 SIG schools that will benefit from the extension, and the amount of funds that will be made available for an additional year.

Comments may be submitted via email, fax, or mail (postmarked) no later than April 25, 2014 to the attention of:

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c: John King  
John Delaney  
Bill Clarke