

***Public Notices for the Arkansas Department of Education's Title I School Improvement Grant Waiver Requests to United States Department of Education***

**Notice to the Public of the Arkansas Department of Education's intent to Apply to the United States Department of Education for a Waiver of the School Improvement Grant Funds to extend the period of availability of school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2013.**

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is requesting a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1225(b)) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to extend the period of availability of school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2013. The ADE is seeking this waiver to allow LEAs within Arkansas additional time to fully implement interventions and strategies required and allowable under the School Improvement Grant program.

Arkansas believes that the requested waiver will increase the capacity of LEAs to implement interventions, to provide necessary professional development to teachers and administrators and will increase the likelihood that interventions are sustained beyond the period of the grant funding and that student success will be the ultimate outcome of this waiver.

If you have questions or need clarification, contact Heather Gage, Special Advisor to the Commissioner, by email at [heather.gage@arkansas.gov](mailto:heather.gage@arkansas.gov).

**Notice to the Public of the Arkansas Department of Education's intent to Apply to the United States Department of Education for a Waiver of the School Improvement Grant Funds to allow LEAs with Tier I schools that will implement a turnaround or restart model to "start over" in the school improvement timeline.**

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is requesting a waiver of Title I, Part A, Section 1116(b)(12) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to allow Tier I schools implementing a turnaround or restart model to "start over" in the school improvement timeline. Specifically ADE is requesting this waiver to allow schools that have implemented an intervention which completely restructures both the academic and administrative functions of a school to start fresh in the school improvement timeline. Turnaround or restart intervention models require extraordinary changes in a school and those changes should be reflected in the school's beginning the timeline from a standing of a new school.

Arkansas believes that the requested waiver reflects the extraordinary changes that are required under the turnaround or restart model and will give schools making those extraordinary changes an opportunity to prove that the model being implemented can immediately put schools on the track to academic success.

If you have questions or need clarification, contact Heather Gage, Special Advisor to the Commissioner, by email at [heather.gage@arkansas.gov](mailto:heather.gage@arkansas.gov).

**Notice to the Public of the Arkansas Department of Education's intent to Apply to the United States Department of Education for a Waiver of the School Improvement Grant Funds permit LEAs to implement a schoolwide program in a Tier I school that does not meet the 40% poverty threshold.**

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is requesting a waiver of Title I, Part A Section 1114(a)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to allow schools with less than 40% poverty to implement a schoolwide program in a Tier I school. Specifically, the ADE seeks to allow Tier I schools to implement a schoolwide program without having met the 40% poverty threshold that is otherwise required.

Arkansas believes that waiving the 40% poverty threshold will allow schools needed flexibility to provide programs to all students within a school access to Title I programs, including those programs that would have otherwise been available only to students independently eligible for participation in Title I programs. This flexibility will ultimately result in increased student success.

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**Notice to the Public of the Arkansas Department of Education's intent to Apply to the United States Department of Education for a Waiver of the School Improvement Grant Funds to allow LEAs to use school improvement funds to serve Tier II schools.**

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is requesting a waiver of Title I, Part A Section 1003(g)(1) and (7) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to allow schools to use School Improvement Grant funds to serve schools in Tier II. Specifically ADE requests flexibility in allowing LEAs to use Title I funds under School Improvement Grant in Tier II schools – secondary schools that are not otherwise Title I recipient schools.

Arkansas believes that serving these schools with School Improvement Grant will help increase the impact of the School Improvement Grant by improving the capacity of schools to provide the best academic environment and opportunities for students preparing to end their public school experience. The schools included in Tier II generally have very low graduation rates, high dropout rates, and low rates for matriculation into postsecondary education. ADE believes that including these Tier II schools in the School Improvement Grant funds will have a positive impact on student achievement in these schools.

If you have questions or need clarification, contact heather Gage, Special Advisor to the Commissioner, by email at [heather.gage@arkansas.gage](mailto:heather.gage@arkansas.gage).