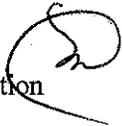




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Select Superintendents of Title I Districts
Select Directors of Title I Districts
Select Charter School Directors

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan 
Commissioner of Education

DATE: June 15, 2010

SUBJECT: Waiver Request Process under the School Improvement Grant (SIG)

The Federal Title I School Improvement Grants (SIG) will provide states and districts the money they need to leverage change and turn around schools. Authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 2002, the program did not receive funding until fiscal year 2007. The current \$3.5 billion provides an unprecedented opportunity for states and districts to implement significant reforms to transform chronically low-performing schools.

Connecticut's allocation for the SIG does not come close to funding the eligible Tier I and Tier II schools at the maximum of \$2 million per year for three years. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) must apply to the United States Department of Education (USDOE) to request a waiver of the Title I, Part g regulatory provision that requires a state to carryover 25 percent of its SIG allocation if all eligible Tier I schools do not apply for the SIG. The CSDE would like to be given permission to waive the requirement to carryover 25 percent of the SIG funds so that we may fund the eligible schools to the greatest extent possible. It is our belief that funding these schools using all of our available funds will allow the schools to fully implement the required interventions of SIG.

Prior to applying for waivers, the Department must have a notice and comment period for all interested parties of at least 10 days and must submit all comments it receives to the USDOE in its application for waivers. A required notice and comment period for all interested parties regarding this SIG waiver will take place June 16-23, 2010. Districts are invited to submit comments to title1waivers@ct.gov.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Michelle Rosado, Education Consultant, at michelle.rosado@ct.gov or 860-713-6748.

MKM:mr

cc: George A. Coleman, Deputy Commissioner
Marion H. Martinez, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner
Deborah Richards, Chief
Harriet Feldlaufer, Chief
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Michelle Rosado, Education Consultant