



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 4, 2014

Deborah Delisle
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202-6132

Re: Waiver Request to Exceed the Carryover Limitation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Title I, Part A Funds for Romulus Community Schools, Saginaw City School District, Taylor School District, and Wayne-Westland Community School District

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle:

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requests a waiver of the limitation in ESEA section 1127(b), which prohibits a State Educational Agency (SEA) from granting a Local Educational Agency (LEA) a waiver of the carryover limitation in section 1127(a) of the ESEA more than once every three years. MDE makes this request pursuant to the Secretary's authority under ESEA section 9401.

ESEA Section 1127(b) permits a State to grant an LEA a waiver of the ESEA carryover limitation once every three years if: (1) the LEA's request is reasonable and necessary; or (2) a supplemental Title I, Part A appropriation becomes available. MDE requests authority to extend the application of this provision more than once every three years to the following four LEA's: Romulus Community Schools, Saginaw City School District, Taylor School District, and Wayne-Westland Community School District.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL VARNER – SECRETARY • RICHARD ZEILE – TREASURER
MICHELLE FECTEAU – NASBE DELEGATE • LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Last year ED granted MDE, along with numerous other states, a waiver of the 1127(b) limitation for fiscal year (FY) 2012-2013 funds in light of the uncertainty caused by sequestration. Many of MDE's school districts were able to take advantage of this flexibility and do not need an additional waiver for the FY2013-2014 grant award. However, due to unforeseen financial circumstances, Michigan has four districts that continue to need additional time and support to expend its funds in a timely and effective manner.

Based on legislation passed on July 26, 2013, the State of Michigan Superintendent of Schools and the State Treasurer dissolved two public school districts, Inkster Public Schools and Buena Vista Public Schools. The district boundaries were redefined and the students within those boundaries were now located in Taylor Public Schools, Romulus Community Schools, Wayne-Westland Community Schools, and Saginaw City School District. The dissolved districts federal funds were then reallocated to these districts but the reallocation process was not completed until April of 2014.

The requested waiver will provide MDE with the ability to grant the effected districts the flexibility each district needs to spend 2013-2014 Title I, Part A funds carefully and appropriately over the next year on activities that are most likely to increase the quality of instruction and improve the academic achievement of students. Specifically, if this request is approved the districts in question have prepared and are ready to implement a plan to maximize the utilization of both the current 2014-2015 Title I, Part A award and the 2013-2014 Title I, Part A carryover in order to meet the needs of its students. MDE has reviewed their plans and determined that it meets all requirements. Each District has assured MDE that it will utilize these funds in full compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, and MDE will exercise the appropriate oversight to ensure these requirements are met.

Prior to submitting this waiver request, Michigan provided all LEAs in the state with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment. A message was sent electronically to each LEA on **[DATE]** (Attachment A). Copies of all comments received from LEAs in response to this notice are attached (Attachment B). Michigan also provided a Public Notice regarding this waiver request by a posting on the MDE website (Attachment C). Copies of all public comments received are included (Attachment D).

December 4, 2014
Page 3

Please feel free to contact Mike Radke by telephone or email at 517-373-3921 or radkem@michigan.gov if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Venessa Keesler, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent / Chief Academic Officer

Enclosures

cc: Monique Chism, U.S. Department of Education, Director of SASA
Todd Stephenson, U.S. Department of Education
Michael Radke, Office of Field Services, MDE

Michigan Department of Education
Office of Field Services

Romulus Community Schools
Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds

REQUIRED WAIVER INFORMATION:

Please describe the reasons the Local Educational Agency (LEA) was unable to obligate and expend at least 85% of the 2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation.

In the summer of 2013 the State Superintendent and the State Treasurer dissolved Inkster Public Schools and Buena Vista Public Schools. The boundaries were redefined and our district received 284 students from Inkster Public Schools. The Michigan Department of Education Office of Field Services began to re-calculate our federal funding based on the new boundaries and poverty levels. It was not until early April of 2014 our district received a Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A increase in our allocation.

Our increase in Title I, Part A was \$420,530.00. Having received the additional funds reflected in the new allocation at this late date made it difficult for us to purposefully and meaningfully expend more than 85% of our new total allocation before the close of the year. We have had a waiver within the last three years, but due to this highly unusual event of receiving students from the neighboring dissolved district, we are requesting a waiver to carry over more than 15% of our allocation from the 2013-2014 school year.

After detailed description, complete the following assurance statement:

Karena Smith of Romulus Community Schools submitted the following Certification of Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds on October 30, 2014:

Our LEA acknowledges that when granted this waiver, we agree to abide by the following set of assurances:

- Our LEA will comply with the statutory and regulatory obligations associated with this waiver in respect to our **2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation** (ESEA Section 1127).
- Our LEA will comply with all reporting requirements associated with this waiver as set forth by the United States Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Education (ESEA Section 9401).

By sending this e-mail, I understand that our agency is requesting a Title I, Part A Carryover Waiver. This request will be reviewed based on Federal

requirements. The LEA will receive an e-mail confirming approval or denial by the Office of Field Services.

PLEASE SAVE THIS COMPLETED REQUEST AND ATTACH TO THE E-MAIL TO: TitleICarryoverWaiver@michigan.gov. Please maintain a copy of the submitted assurance and the e-mail from your "Sent Items" for your records.

Michigan Department of Education
Office of Field Services

Saginaw City School District
Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds

REQUIRED WAIVER INFORMATION:

Please describe the reasons the Local Educational Agency (LEA) was unable to obligate and expend at least 85% of the 2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation.

[In the summer of 2013 the State Superintendent and the State Treasurer dissolved Inkster Public Schools and Buena Vista Public Schools. The boundaries were redefined and our district received 165 students from the Buena Vista Public Schools. The Michigan Department of Education Office of Field Services began to re-calculate our federal funding based on the new boundaries and poverty levels. It was not until early April of 2014 our district received a Title I Part A and Title II Part A increase in our allocation.

Our increase in Title I Part A was \$680,824. Having received the additional funds reflected in the new allocation at this late date made it difficult for us to purposefully and meaningfully expend more than 85% of our new total allocation before the close of the year. We have had a waiver within the last three years, but, due to this highly unusual event of receiving students from the neighboring dissolved district, we are requesting a waiver to carry over more than 15% of our allocation for the 2013-2014 school year]

After detailed description, complete the following assurance statement:

[Latoya Summey and Sarah Swift] of [School District of the City of Saginaw] submitted the following Certification of Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds on [October 24, 2014]:

Our LEA acknowledges that when granted this waiver, we agree to abide by the following set of assurances:

- Our LEA will comply with the statutory and regulatory obligations associated with this waiver in respect to our **2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation** (ESEA Section 1127).
- Our LEA will comply with all reporting requirements associated with this waiver as set forth by the United States Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Education (ESEA Section 9401).

By sending this e-mail, I understand that our agency is requesting a Title I, Part A Carryover Waiver. This request will be reviewed based on Federal

requirements. The LEA will receive an e-mail confirming approval or denial by the Office of Field Services.

PLEASE SAVE THIS COMPLETED REQUEST AND ATTACH TO THE E-MAIL TO: TitleICarryoverWaiver@michigan.gov. Please maintain a copy of the submitted assurance and the e-mail from your "Sent Items" for your records.

Michigan Department of Education
Office of Field Services

Taylor School District
Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds

REQUIRED WAIVER INFORMATION:

Please describe the reasons the Local Educational Agency (LEA) was unable to obligate and expend at least 85% of the 2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation.

In the summer of 2013 the State Superintendent and the State Treasurer dissolved Inkster Public Schools and Buena Vista Public Schools. The boundaries were redefined and our district received approximately 260 students from the Inkster School District. The Michigan Department of Education Office of Field Services began to re-calculate our federal funding based on the new boundaries and poverty levels. It was not until early April of 2014 our district received a Title I Part A and Title II Part A increase in our allocation.

Our increase in Title I Part A was 322,752 dollars. Having received the additional funds reflected in the new allocation at this late date made it difficult for us to purposefully and meaningfully expend more than 85% of our new total allocation before the close of the year. We have had a waiver within the last three years, but, due to this highly unusual event of receiving students from the neighboring dissolved district, we are requesting a waiver to carry over more than 15% of our allocation for the 2013-2014 school year.

After detailed description, complete the following assurance statement:

Kim Courey of Taylor School District submitted the following Certification of Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds on November 13, 2014:

Our LEA acknowledges that when granted this waiver, we agree to abide by the following set of assurances:

- Our LEA will comply with the statutory and regulatory obligations associated with this waiver in respect to our **2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation** (ESEA Section 1127).
- Our LEA will comply with all reporting requirements associated with this waiver as set forth by the United States Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Education (ESEA Section 9401).

By sending this e-mail, I understand that our agency is requesting a Title I, Part A Carryover Waiver. This request will be reviewed based on Federal

requirements. The LEA will receive an e-mail confirming approval or denial by the Office of Field Services.

PLEASE SAVE THIS COMPLETED REQUEST AND ATTACH TO THE E-MAIL TO: TitleICarryoverWaiver@michigan.gov. Please maintain a copy of the submitted assurance and the e-mail from your "Sent Items" for your records.

Michigan Department of Education
Office of Field Services

**Wayne-Westland Community School District
Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds**

REQUIRED WAIVER INFORMATION:

Please describe the reasons the Local Educational Agency (LEA) was unable to obligate and expend at least 85% of the 2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation.

Due to the funds allocated to our district in April for the closed Inkster Schools we were unable to expend these funds and were granted the waiver by MDE.

After detailed description, complete the following assurance statement:

Donna Lochrie of Wayne-Westland Community Schools (82160) submitted the following Certification of Title I, Part A 15% Carryover Waiver for 2013-14 Funds on May 6, 2014:

Our LEA acknowledges that when granted this waiver, we agree to abide by the following set of assurances:

- Our LEA will comply with the statutory and regulatory obligations associated with this waiver in respect to our **2013-14 Title I, Part A allocation** (ESEA Section 1127).
- Our LEA will comply with all reporting requirements associated with this waiver as set forth by the United States Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Education (ESEA Section 9401).

By sending this e-mail, I understand that our agency is requesting a Title I, Part A Carryover Waiver. This request will be reviewed based on Federal requirements. The LEA will receive an e-mail confirming approval or denial by the Office of Field Services.

PLEASE SAVE THIS COMPLETED REQUEST AND ATTACH TO THE E-MAIL TO: TitleICarryoverWaiver@michigan.gov. Please maintain a copy of the submitted assurance and the e-mail from your "Sent Items" for your records.