STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents of Michigan School Districts
Interested Members of the Public

From: Linda Forward
Director, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation

Subject: Comment Period on School Improvement Grant (SIG) Waivers

Michigan is in the process of filing an amendment to its FY 2009 School Improvement Grant Application in order to make new awards, using either FY 2009 SIG funds alone or in combination with other available SIG funds, for a new cohort of schools that will begin their three-year SIG implementation in the 2013-2014 school year.

In this application, Michigan is applying for two waivers. First, that the 2011-2012 Top to Bottom List be used to determine eligible applicants. Second, that the 2010 approved LEA application and rubrics be used in the competitive process.

Comments and questions should be directed to Kristine Davidson, Consultant, at (517) 373-9717, or via email at davidsonk1 @michigan.gov, no later than June 26, 2013.

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June 14, 2013

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Ms. Delisle:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Department of Education to request approval of an amendment to Michigan's Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grant Application to extend the waiver previously granted under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1225(b), to extend the period of availability of the fiscal year (FY) 2009 School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds awarded under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, until September 30, 2014. This request to extend the waiver, submitted pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the ESEA, would permit the Michigan Department of Education to make new awards, using FY 2009 SIG funds in combination with other available SIG funds for a new cohort of schools (Cohort III) that will begin their three-year SIG implementation in the 2013-2014 school year.

The Michigan Department of Education is requesting approval for two amendments to its FY 2009 SIG application. First, that the LEA application and rubrics from the FY 2010 SIG application be substituted for the FY 2009 SIG application and rubrics as they more fully developed than those in the FY 2009 year application. Second, that approval be granted to use the Michigan Department of Education Top to Bottom list and Business Rules for 2011-12 to determine the schools that are eligible for the competition. Schools presently receiving SIG grants in Cohort I or II will be excluded from the competition.

If amendments to Michigan's FY 2009 application are approved so that it can make new awards, the Michigan Department of Education assures that it will:

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- Use available FY 2009 funds to run a competitive grant competition that funds a new Cohort III for 2013-2014. Our current estimate of funds available for this use is $25.8 million.
- Use the Michigan Department of Education Top to Bottom list as determined by the Business Rules for 2011-12 to notify schools that they are eligible for the competition.
  Schools on the bottom 5 percent of this list are considered Priority Schools and eligible to compete for SIG awards.
- With the exception of the two amendments, implement the FY 2009 Application as previously approved.
- Within 30 days of awarding new grants, post on its public website and submit to the Department the names of the LEAs (including their NCES District Identification Number) and their schools (including their NCES School Identification Number) together with their grant award amounts.
- Provide all LEAs and the public with notice of this request and opportunity to provide comments. Michigan's Committee of Practitioners meets the week of June 17 and will be provided an opportunity to discuss the amendment request in depth. All comments received from this notice and the Committee of Practitioners will be forwarded to the Department by June 26, 2013.

Please feel free to contact Linda Forward by phone at 517-241-3147 or e-mail at forwardl@michigan.gov if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Flanagan
State Superintendent

Attachments:
- Michigan Department of Education Top to Bottom List for 2011-2012
- Michigan Department of Education Business Rules for Determining Top to Bottom List for 2011-2012
- Michigan Department of Education FY 2010 Michigan Approved SIG Application
- Memorandum provided to all LEAs in Michigan and the public with notice and opportunity to comment on Waiver Request.