



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 7, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Request for Comment on the Michigan Department of Education Request to Waive the Period of Availability of FY 2008 School Improvement Grant Funds

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is requesting a waiver to extend the period of availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 School Improvement Grants (SIG) under section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (the "Tydings Amendment"), FY 2008 SIG funds must be obligated by September 30, 2010. These funds remain unobligated because of the influx of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Title I funds in FY 2009. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) utilized these funds to support multiple school improvement initiatives, and as a result, MDE is facing the possibility of lapsing FY 2008 School Improvement Grant Funds.

Unspent FY 2008 SIG funds will be included with the 2010 SIG funds (and the FY 2009 SIG funds that carry over, if any funds remain unspent at the end of that grant period) and the combined funds will be used to make FY 2010 SIG awards consistent with the SIG final requirements. Unspent FY 2008 SIG funds will be used for SIG awards that allow LEAs to support the implementation of the required school intervention models in additional Tier I and Tier II schools. These funds will help increase the quality of instruction and improve the academic achievement of students in those schools by supporting rigorous reforms. Each LEA that receives FY 2008 SIG funds will be held accountable in accordance with the annual goals included in the FY 2010 SIG application.

MDE submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education) a request to extend the period of availability for the FY 2008 SIG funds for an additional 24 months until September 30, 2012.

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Page 2
October 7, 2010

The waiver requests may be accessed online at www.michigan.gov/mde under "Current Topics."

For questions regarding the waiver request, please contact Bill Witt at wittb1@michigan.gov.

LEAs wishing to comment on the request should submit comments to ARRAWaiverResponse@michigan.gov by October 14, 2010.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance