

**2. REQUEST TO WAIVE PROHIBITION ON APPROVING AN IDENTIFIED SCHOOL OR LEA AS AN SES PROVIDER**

Dear Assistant Secretary Melendez de Santa Ana:

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is requesting a one-year waiver of the Title I, Part A regulatory provision that prohibits a State from approving as providers of supplemental educational services (SES) schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and local educational agencies (LEAs) identified for improvement or corrective action (34 C.F.R. § 200.47(b)(1)(iv)(A), (B)).

Under the law, ISBE may approve as an SES provider only an entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing student academic achievement. ISBE believes that identified schools and LEAs may be able to establish that they have an effective program that can help improve academic achievement of students and should not be prevented automatically from gaining approval simply because of their improvement status.

ISBE has set the following annual measurable objectives (AMOs) in reading and mathematics, subjects that are among those covered by SES providers in Illinois for the 2009–2010 school year:

Year	Reading and Math AMO
2008-2009	70%
2009- 2010	77.5%

ISBE will determine adequate yearly progress (AYP) based on assessments administered in the 2009–2010 school year in accordance with the requirements of section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). ISBE believes that, ultimately, allowing some identified schools or LEAs to serve as SES providers may help more students within Illinois to reach the State’s proficiency objectives.

If Illinois is granted the requested waiver, ISBE will ensure that only those LEAs and schools that meet the State’s requirements for SES providers are approved to be on the State’s list of approved SES providers for the 2009–2010 school year.

Prior to submitting this waiver request, Illinois provided all LEAs in the State with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request. Illinois provided such notice by sending a blast email to all LEAs requesting comments on the waiver. Illinois has also provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public by posting the waiver request on the agency’s website and including information on the request in the Superintendent’s weekly message.

ISBE hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by September 30, 2010, a report that provides the total number of LEAs identified for improvement or corrective action that were approved to be an SES provider for the 2009–2010 school year and the total number of schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that were approved to be an SES provider for the 2009–2010 school year.

Please feel free to contact Melina Wright at 217-524-4832 or via email at [mewright@isbe.net](mailto:mewright@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.