September 12, 2012

Mr. Jean Claude-Brizard
Chief Executive Officer
Chicago District 299
125 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603-5200

Dear Mr. Brizard:

The Chicago Public School District 299 Preliminary Plan for Improvement of Instruction for Disadvantaged Students, Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA), for FY 2013 is disapproved.

The disapproval is due to noncompliance of portions of Section 18-8.05(H)(4) of the School Code and Title 23 Part 203 Section 203.20 of the Illinois Administrative Rules that govern Low-Income Student Fund Plans. The specific reasons for disapproval are provided below:

1. Per Section 18-8.05(H)(4) of the School Code and Section 203.20(a)(1)(B) of the administrative rule, the initial SGSA aggregate allocation not including unexpended or unallocated funds from the prior school year does not meet the minimum required amount of $261 million.

2. Per Section 18-8.05(H)(4)(a) of the School Code, the CPS allocated amounts for each school per SGSA enrollment are not proportionally equal without explanation.

3. Per Section 203.20(a)(2)(A) of the administrative rule, the Total Enrollment should reflect the “total number of students enrolled in the attendance center as of the last school day in September of the immediately preceding school year.” District 299 staff stated that the district utilizes the “20th day enrollment figure” which was approximately October 5, 2011.

4. Per Section 203.20(a)(2)(B) of the administrative rule, “the total number of students enrolled who were eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches or breakfasts” must be as of December 1 of the immediately preceding school year. District 299 staff stated that the district utilizes the “20th day enrollment figure” which was approximately October 5, 2011.
5. Per Section 203.20(a)(2)(E) of the administrative rule, the SGSA allocation by school provided in the preliminary plan does not comply with the mathematical calculation of the per pupil SGSA amount multiplied by each school's SGSA enrollment.

6. Per Section 203.20(b)(5) of the administrative rule, there appear to be some schools that may have their SGSA amount adjusted/contravened by other funds (i.e. Basic and Other) without explanation.

Per Section 18-8.05(H)(4)(f) of the School Code and Section 203.20(c) of the administrative rule, District 299 must provide written notice of intent to modify the SGSA preliminary plan within 15 days of the notification of disapproval and submit a modified SGSA plan within 30 days after the date of the written notice of intent to modify.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Jim Mathes, Funding and Disbursement Services, at 217-782-5256 or jmathes@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

cc: Tim Imler, Division Administrator, Funding and Disbursement Services