



# Illinois State Board of Education

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**Gery J. Chico**  
Chairman

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

March 19, 2013

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle:

I am writing to request a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (also known as the "Tydings Amendment") to extend the period of availability to obligate fiscal year FY10, FY11, and FY12 School Improvement Grants (SIG) program funds authorized under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. I am requesting that the authority to obligate funds for the State-administered FY10 SIG program funds to September 30, 2014, the FY11 SIG program funds to September 30, 2015, and the FY12 SIG program funds to September 30, 2016.

The extended authority to obligate these funds would enable ISBE and its sub-recipients to continue to assist the state's persistently lowest-achieving schools in increasing the quality of instruction for students and improving the academic achievement of students and to conduct another competition to award a fourth cohort of SIG schools.

ISBE assures that it has:

- Provided all sub-recipients of the programs affected by the waiver with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request. ISBE provided such notice by publicizing the waivers in the weekly Superintendents Bulletin on March 25, 2013. (A copy of this notice is available at <http://www.isbe.net/nclb/pdfs/waiver-request-421b-031913.pdf>. In addition, ISBE sent out a blast email to all those who receive School Improvement Grants.
- Any comments received by ISBE will be forwarded to the Department.
- Provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner that ISBE customarily provides such notice and information to the public by posting information regarding the waiver request on its web site. (Indication of this is available at: <http://www.isbe.net/nclb/htmls/waivers.htm>).

ISBE further assures that, if it receives the requested waiver, it will:

- Ensure that each local educational agency (LEA) that receives the funds to expend them in accordance with the final requirements for the SIG program (75 Fed. Reg. 66363 (Oct. 28, 2010));
- Hold local educational agencies and schools accountable by assuring that the continued funding for schools in years two and three will be based on the criteria outlined in its approved SIG application; and

Please feel free to contact Linda Shay by telephone at 217-524-4832 or email at [lshay@isbe.net](mailto:lshay@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

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

**REQUEST TO WAIVE THE PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS UNDER  
STATE-ADMINISTERED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS; AMERICAN  
RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA); TITLE I of the  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT of 1965, (ESEA)  
PROGRAMS**

<b>ILLINOIS</b>					
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>CFDA Number</b>	<b>Name of Program</b>	<b>Grant Award Number</b>	<b>Funds that Remain Unobligated</b>	<b>Funds that Remain Unallocated</b>
2010 - Regular	84.377A	School Improvement Grant 1003(g)	S377A100014	\$21,829,405	\$21,829,405
2011 - Regular	84.377A	School Improvement Grant 1003(g)	S377A110014	\$23,718,170	\$23,718,170

Obligated – Funds have been loaded into a budget for the LEA to draw down.  
 Allocated – Funds have been designated for LEA use per grant agreement.