



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

James T. Meeks
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

August 7, 2015

Ms. Ann Whalen

Designated the authority to perform the functions and duties of
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Whalen:

I am writing to request a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), also known as the "Tydings Amendment," as it affects the authority of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and its sub-recipients to obligate School Improvement Grant 1003(g) fiscal year (FY) 2010 and FY2011 funds after September 30, 2015. Specifically, I am requesting the authority to obligate Title I, Section 1003(g) School Improvement Grant funds for Project Number 84.377A, Award Numbers S377A100014 in the amount of \$3,697,786.60 and S377A110014 in the amount of \$7,471,252.36 through September 30, 2016.

The extended authority to obligate these funds would enable ISBE and its sub-recipients to continue to increase the quality of instruction for students, improve academic achievement, and continue to assist the same populations served by the programs for which this waiver is being requested in accordance with applicable program requirements.

ISBE assures 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 waiver in the weekly Superintendent's Bulletin on August 11, 2015 (see <http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archivemessage.htm>) and by sending out an IWAS blast email to all those who work on the School Improvement Grant 1003(g) which includes Superintendents, Principals and the Illinois Center for School Improvement;
- Should comments on the waiver be received in response to the notice they will be forwarded to the Department; and
- 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 website (see <http://www.isbe.net/nclb/htmls/waivers.htm>).

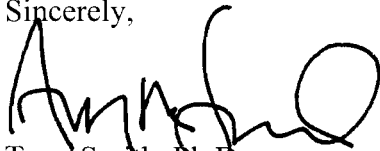
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ISBE further assures that if it receives the requested waiver, ISBE will:

- Ensure that sub-recipients within the state will use FY 2010 and FY2011 funds carried over as a result of the waiver to carry out activities in accordance with program requirements; and
- Hold local educational agencies and schools accountable based on the state's annual measurable objectives.

Please feel free to contact Amy Jo Clemens, Assistant Superintendent for the Center for Innovation and Improvement, at 217-524-4832 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Smith", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education