



Illinois State Board of Education

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Gery J. Chico
Chairman

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

March 20, 2012

Mr. Michael Yudin
Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Yudin:

I am writing to request a waiver of section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (Tydings Amendment) as it affects the authority of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and its sub-recipients to obligate School Improvement funds beyond their current expiration. Specifically, I am requesting that the authority to obligate funds for the State-administered Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) School Improvement funds be extended as outlined in the chart below.

The extended authority to obligate these funds would enable ISBE and its sub-recipients to increase the quality of instruction for students, improve their 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 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 will provide such notice by publicizing the waivers in the weekly Superintendent's Bulletin, on March 20, 2012, and on the ISBE 1003(g) SIG website at http://isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm on March 21, 2012.
- No comments on the waivers were received in response to the notice to date but if any such comments are received by ISBE we will forward them 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 website (see <http://www.isbe.net/nclb/htmls/waivers.htm>).

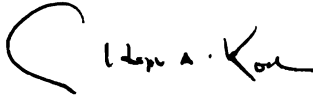
ISBE further assures that, if it receives the requested waiver, it will:

- Ensure that sub-recipients within the State will use FY2009, 2010, and 2011 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 Monique Chism by phone or email at mchism@isbe.net or 217-524-4832 if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher A. Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

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

Illinois					
CFDA Number	Name of Program	Grant Award Number	Estimate of the Amount of Funds that Remain Unobligated	Expiration	Extension Request
84.388A	2009 -ARRA	S388A090014	\$65,891,098.72	9/30/2014	Need Tydings Waiver to extend to 2015
84.377A	2009-Regualr	S377A090014	\$21,720,835.49	9/30/2014	Need Tydings Waiver to extend to 2015
84.377A	2010- Regular (One year awards)	S377A100014	\$21,998,940.87	9/30/2012	Need Tydings Waiver to extend to 2013
84.377A	2011-Regular		\$23,659,654	9/30/2013	Need Tydings Waiver to extend to 2014

Waiver Announcement

ISBE is seeking the following waiver from the U.S. Department of Education. Please submit any comments on this waiver to nclb@isbe.net by March 30, 2012. ISBE hopes that by soliciting this waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, students of Illinois will be better served.

- Waive the period of availability of funds under state-administered Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs, specifically those funds appropriated under the School Improvement Program. The extended authority to obligate these funds would enable ISBE and its sub-recipients to increase the quality of instruction for students, improve their 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.

The full waiver request can be found here:

http://www.isbe.net/nclb/pdfs/waiver_request_sec421_031512.pdf. Questions on this waiver should be directed to nclb@isbe.net