

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

May 26, 2009

Mr. Joseph Conaty  
Director of Reading First  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Conaty:

Rhode Island is writing to request a Waiver of the Tydings period (e.g., no cost extension) for the Rhode Island Reading First project for FFY07 funds as these funds are due to expire on September 30, 2009. After working on preliminary figures with our finance office and district liaisons, it has been determined that Rhode Island will have approximately \$800,000 of unallocated funds that must be used by September 30, 2009 if we do not receive a waiver. A large amount of these unallocated or unspent district funds is due to the following:

- Receipt of the supplemental award on September 25, 2008 after awards for this fiscal year had already been allocated;
- An unfilled coaching position of which 100% of the salary and benefits are paid through the district RF grant;
- Vacated Reading First Supervisor position in Providence School Department with 7/12 of the 100% of salary and fringe benefits remaining in the grant; and,
- Lapse of 1/10 of the salaries and benefits for 8 coaches who will be returning to the classrooms at the beginning of September because their grant cycle concludes on September 30, 2009.

If granted a waiver, we would like to use the \$800,000.00 remaining money from our FFY07 grant for the following purposes:

RIDE would like to offer a series of professional development sessions for current and former Reading First teachers and administrators. During exit interviews conducted in May 2009, RF Coaches and Administrators overwhelmingly responded that state level professional development was an essential resource for continued success and growth within their schools.

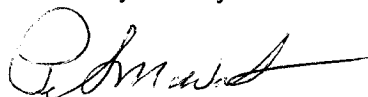
Wireless Generation mClass: DIBELS software subscriptions are a vital component of classroom and school level data analysis within our Reading First schools. As evidenced by May exit interviews of Cohort 1 schools, their use of the information to provide interventions for at-risk students should be nurtured even further. RIDE would like to support the continuation of this data collection for this cohort of schools.

**Telephone** (401)222-4600 **Fax** (401)222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

The Providence School Department has determined through an analysis that an SBRR basal series rather than their Balanced Literacy curriculum needs to be implemented uniformly across their entire district. RIDE would like to support the purchase of those materials for the schools that remain in the RF grant.

If you have questions about our request for a waiver of the Tydings Period for FFY2007, please contact Diane Girard, Co-Coordinator of Rhode Island Reading First. Her email address: [diane.girard@ride.ri.gov](mailto:diane.girard@ride.ri.gov).

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McWalters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter McWalters