



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

Ken Wagner
Commissioner

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Waiver to extend period of availability of FFY 2013
school improvement funds (SIG 1003g)

The School Improvement Grant (SIG, 1003g) funds are available to State Education Agencies (SEAs) to make competitive awards to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that serve Priority and Focus schools, demonstrate the greatest need for the funds, and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources to enable the lowest performing schools to meet their improvement goals.

To date, SIG funds have supported the chosen reform models of two cohorts of the persistently lowest achieving schools in Rhode Island, following competitions in 2010-11 and 2011-12. However, after RIDE has fully funded the schools that were currently implementing models and provided flexibility to continue projects in an extension year, unobligated FY 2013 SIG funds remain. Therefore, RIDE has requested a waiver of the requirement in Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2013 SIG funds for RIDE and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2017. FY 2013 SIG funds would be combined with FY 2014 SIG funds as awards for the competition to be run in the 2015-16 school year.

In requesting this waiver, RIDE must provide all LEAs that are eligible to receive SIG funds and the public with notice and opportunity to comment on the waiver request. RIDE will submit all comments to US ED and US ED will consider the comments when determining whether to grant the waiver request. Please submit all comments via email to stephen.osborn@ride.ri.gov by October 10, 2015.