THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Education & Early Development
DIVISION OF TEACHING & LEARNING SUPPORT
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To: Superintendents of Title I Districts

From: Margaret MacKinnon
Title I/ESEA Administrator

Date: September 3, 2013

Subject: Notification of Alaska's Intent to Apply for a Waiver for the Period of Availability of Federal FY 2011 School Improvement Grant Funds

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Alaska intends to apply for a waiver of section 421(b) of GEPA for the unobligated portion of Alaska's federal FY 2011 SIG 1003g funds. Specifically, this waiver is to extend the period of availability for the Federal FY 2011 SIG funds for an additional 12 months, until September 30, 2014.

These Federal FY2011 funds were received by the state in a grant award dated March 20, 2012 and were awarded to the three SIG schools in Cohort 2 for the 2012-2013 school year to fund the second year of their 3-year SIG grant. These funds remain unobligated because these schools were unable to fully obligate the funds by the end of June, the state's fiscal year, and will not have sufficient allowable expenses before September 30 in order to fully expend these funds. Currently, Alaska has up to $242,000 in unobligated Federal FY 2011 SIG funds, pending final reconciliation of district reimbursement requests. Alaska does not anticipate being able to obligate these funds in a thoughtful manner that will increase the quality of instruction and academic performance for students prior to that deadline.

Alaska will combine the remaining Federal FY 2011 SIG funds with its Federal FY 2012 SIG funds and will use the combined funds to make the third year of the SIG grant awards (for the 2013-2014 school year) to the three SIG schools in Cohort 2 consistent with the SIG final requirements. (Please note that this waiver request only impacts these three SIG schools that are going into the third year of a 3-year competitive grant.) Alaska believes that receiving this waiver will enable it to use Federal FY 2011 funds to make SIG awards that will allow its LEAs to fully support the final year of implementation of required school intervention models in these Cohort 2 Tier I and Tier II schools. These funds will help increase the quality of instruction and improve the academic achievement of students in these schools by supporting rigorous reforms. Alaska will hold each LEA that receives Federal FY 2011 SIG funds accountable in accordance with the annual goals that the LEA included in its SIG application for those schools.

This notice is to meet the notification requirements under Section 9401(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. **Districts are invited to submit comments to the department regarding this waiver request no later than September 6, 2013. After that date, the department will submit the district comments to the US Department of Education (USED) to accompany its waiver request. Comments may be submitted to Margaret MacKinnon by email at margaret.mackinnon@alaska.gov or by fax at 907-465-2989.**