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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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KEVIN HUFFMAN
COMMISSIONER

February 22, 2012

Michael Yudin, Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)
Headquarters – LBJ Education Building
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Yudin:

I am writing on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Education to request a waiver on the definition of persistently lowest achieving (PLA) in the approved School Improvement Grant application for fiscal year (FY) 2010 funds. As a result of the approval by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver submitted by the Tennessee Department of Education, the Tennessee Department of Education requests to modify its definition of persistently-lowest achieving (PLA) schools and replace the list of eligible schools with Title I Priority Schools. If the waiver is approved, we request that these attachments become amendments to Tennessee's School Improvement Grant application. The following attachments are submitted:

Attachment 1: Definition of "persistently-lowest achieving schools," will become Tennessee's definition of PLA and replace information detailed in the School Improvement Grant application Part I, SEA Requirements, Part A, Eligible Schools, pp. S-5, 6.

Attachment 2: The revised PLA list will replace information detailed in the School Improvement Grant application Appendix A, Tier I amended February 17, 2012.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Debra E. Owens, Debbie.Owens@tn.gov, or me if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kevin Huffman

KH/DO: bc

Attachments

c: Dr. Carlos McCauley, Office of School Turnaround, U.S. Department of Education
David Yi, Office of School Turnaround, U.S. Department of Education
Erin O'Hara, Assistant Commissioner for Data and Communications, Tennessee Department of Education
Dr. Debra E. Owens, Executive Director of Federal Programs and Accountability, Tennessee Department of Education
Rita Fentress, Coordinator, School Improvement, Tennessee Department of Education