



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

OCT 29 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Josh Brammer
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Kathy Axt /Tomakie Washington
Regulatory Information Management Services
U.S. Department of Education

FROM: Alex Goniprow *AG*
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)

SUBJECT: Addition of Fiscal Year 2010 Application to Package for School Improvement Grants (#1810-0682)

As you know, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) request for regular approval of the School Improvement Grants (SIG) collection (OMB #1810-0682). Part of the package included the State educational agency (SEA) application used for fiscal year (FY) 2009 SIG funding. ED has now developed an amended application for SEAs to use to apply for FY 2010 SIG funds, which contains technical changes from the application used for FY 2009 funds. We are requesting to add the amended SIG application to the package through OMB 83-C.

Although the formatting of the amended SIG application is different from the original, the content is almost identical. ED has made two minor modifications to the SIG application to make it easier for SEAs to comply with the final requirements for the SIG program that govern FY 2010 funds (as well as FY 2009 funds). These changes are consistent with the SIG final requirements that were part of the package OMB approved.

The first modification expands Section B of the application to include Section B-1 in order to request information on the pre-implementation period for the SIG program. This modification is necessary because ED expects that there will be significantly more time between an LEA's receipt of its FY 2010 SIG funds and the start of school year (SY) 2011–2012, which is when an LEA must begin full implementation of a SIG intervention model in a Tier I or Tier II school it is serving with FY 2010 funds, than there was between an LEA's receipt of FY 2009 SIG funds and the start of SY 2010–2011, which was when an LEA was required to begin full implementation of a SIG intervention model in a Tier I

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or Tier II school it served with FY 2009 funds. As a result, there will be a pre-implementation period for FY 2010 funds that did not exist for the FY 2009 funds. During that period, an LEA may use SIG funds to support activities that will help it prepare for full implementation of a SIG intervention model at the start of SY 2010–2011.

Consequently, we have added Section B-1 in the amended SIG application to ask an SEA to provide information on how it will review the activities an LEA proposes to carry out during pre-implementation and its budget for those activities. Although the same final requirements govern FY 2009 and FY 2010 SIG funds, ED did not need to ask for this information in the FY 2009 application because there was not time for a pre-implementation period for FY 2009.

The second modification expands Section H so that it includes six waivers that an SEA may request as part of submitting its application for FY 2010 funding. An SEA is not obligated to request any of the waivers, and an SEA can comply with the final requirements for the SIG program without receiving any of the waivers. For those SEAs that do want to take advantage of the flexibility offered by the waivers, this modification will help them make their requests in an efficient manner by including a specific section in the application for these waiver requests.

Three of the waivers relate to an SEA's FY 2010 lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools. Two of these waivers are waivers that a number of SEAs requested and received with respect to their lists of Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools for FY 2009 but were not in the application for FY 2009 funding. These two waivers were not included in the FY 2009 application because ED had not anticipated that a number of SEAs would want to receive these waivers. SEAs that did request these waivers had to do so through a letter that was sent separate from, and in addition to, their SIG applications. To make it easier for SEAs to obtain these same waivers concerning their FY 2010 lists of schools, we have added them to the amended application. The third waiver relates to the effect an SEA's FY 2009 lists of schools has on how the SEA develops its FY 2010 lists. Accordingly, this waiver was not applicable to the first year of SIG implementation under the final requirements published in December 2009 and amended in January 2010, so it was not part of the application for FY 2009 funding.

The fourth and fifth waivers are substantially similar to two that were in the application for FY 2009 SIG funds, the only differences being: (1) the year of implementation referenced in the waiver; and (2) the inclusion of Tier III schools. One of these waivers allows a Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III Title I participating school that first fully implements the turnaround or restart model in SY 2011–2012 to “start over” in the school improvement timeline. The other waiver permits a Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III Title I participating school that has less than 40 percent poverty and is fully implementing one of the four school intervention models to operate as a schoolwide program.

The sixth waiver relates to an SEA's ability to extend the period of availability to use FY 2009 carryover SIG funds until September 30, 2014. A similar waiver was part of the application for FY 2009 funds.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to change collection 1810-0682 to include the amended SIG application for FY 2010 funds. The changes to the SIG 2010 application do not impact the burden estimate for this collection.

If there are questions, please contact Todd Stephenson of OESE's Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs office at 202-205-1645 or Todd.Stephenson@ed.gov.