

August 16, 2019

Frank Brogan
Assistant Secretary Elementary & Secondary Education
US Department of Education,
400 Maryland Ave., SW,
Washington, DC 20202

Request for a Tydings Amendment Waiver

Dear Assistant Secretary Brogan,

I am writing on behalf of the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to request a waiver from Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (the "Tydings Amendment") as it pertains to the authority of the GaDOE and its local educational agencies (LEAs) to obligate Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Title 1 1003 school improvement funding. The waiver request proposes to extend the period of availability of the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Title 1 1003 school improvement funds awarded under Section 1003 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, until September 30, 2020. This request for a waiver, submitted pursuant to section 8401 of ESSA, would permit the GaDOE to sub-grant Title 1 1003 funds to LEAs to support school improvement at identified Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools for a period of up to 3 years.

This waiver request is consistent with ESSA section 1003(c), which indicates that 1003 subgrants may be awarded for a period of up to 3 years. The additional time afforded to LEAs by this waiver is in the public interest because it would enable LEAs to ensure that their CSI and TSI schools are able to use FY 2017 Title 1 1003 school improvement funds to support full and effective implementation of selected school improvement interventions. In the absence of a waiver, sub-grants would be limited to the general 27-month period of availability of Title I, 1003 funds.

Georgia assures that it is in the process of providing all LEAs in the state with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request. The GaDOE provided this notice by posting it on the GaDOE website on August 16, 2019. To expedite its waiver request, Georgia will submit copies of any comments it receives from LEAs after the comment period closes on September 20, 2019.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail at: (404) 657-0144 rwoods@doe.k12.ga.us if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Woods
State School Superintendent
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Richard Woods, *Georgia's School Superintendent*

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