



November XX, 2014

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle:

I am writing on behalf of the Iowa Department of Education to request a one-year waiver of the Title I, Part A regulatory provision that prohibits a state from approving as providers of supplemental educational services (SES) schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring and local educational agencies (LEAs) identified for improvement or corrective action (34 C.F.R. § 200.47(b)(1)(iv)(A), (B)).

Under the law, Iowa may approve as a SES provider only an entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness in increasing student academic achievement. Iowa believes that identified schools and LEAs may be able to establish that they have an effective program that can help improve academic achievement of students and should not be prevented automatically from gaining approval simply because of their improvement status.

Iowa has set annual measurable objectives (AMOs) of 100 percent in reading and mathematics for the 2015–2016 school year.

Iowa will determine adequate yearly progress (AYP) based on assessments administered in the 2015–2016 school year in accordance with the requirements of section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 and in accordance with the growth model approved by the Department. Iowa believes that, ultimately, allowing some identified schools or LEAs to serve as SES providers may help more students within Iowa to reach the state's proficiency objectives.

If Iowa is granted the requested waiver, Iowa will ensure that only those LEAs and schools that meet the state's requirements for SES providers are approved to be on the state's list of approved SES providers for the 2015-2016 school year.

Prior to submitting this waiver request, Iowa provided all LEAs in the state with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on this request. Iowa provided such notice by sending an email to each LEA on November X, 2014 (*see* copy of notice attached). Copies of all comments that Iowa received from LEAs in response to the notice are attached hereto. Iowa has also provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner in which Iowa customarily provides such notice and information to the public by posting information regarding the waiver request on its website (*see* attached copy of public notice).

Iowa hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by September 30, 2016, a report that provides the total number of LEAs identified for improvement or corrective action that were approved to be an SES provider for the 2015–2016 school year and the total number of schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that were approved to be an SES provider for the 2015-2016 school year.

Please contact Amy Williamson by phone (515.339.4122) or email at [Amy.Williamson@iowa.gov](mailto:Amy.Williamson@iowa.gov) if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincere regards,

Brad A. Buck  
Director

Attachment

Cc: David Tilly, Deputy Director  
Jeff Berger, Deputy Director  
Amy Williamson, Bureau Chief for School Improvement  
Geri McMahan, Title I Administrative Consultant