



**Public Notice for OSPI Title I Waiver Request to U.S. Department of Education
for the 2014–15 School Year**

Notice to the public of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s intent to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver of 14-Day Public School Choice Notification Requirement for the 2014–15 school year.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to notify Washington State citizens of the state’s intent to request a waiver of the 14-Day Public School Choice Notification Requirement for the 2014–15 school year.

Please send comments to gayle.paulev@k12.wa.us by close of business on June 18, 2014.

Washington State through OSPI requests a one-year waiver of the Title I, Part A requirement for a school district to send the 14-day parent notification letter at the beginning of the 2014–15 school year. This request is specifically to allow the state to exempt school districts with schools in improvement from sending out the 14-day letter for the 2014–15 school year and to be allowed to remove public school choice as an option from the 14-day letter because of the lack of schools available for public school choice.

Washington State seeks a waiver of this provision because:

The majority of schools in Washington (with the exception of a handful of very small schools) will not meet the 100% AYP requirement this year. As a result, nearly every school in every district will be designated as in improvement and required to send a letter to the family of every student notifying them of the status of their school.

The intent of the 14-day notification letter is to provide public school choice to families living within the boundaries of a (Step 1–5) school in order to allow them to move to a school that had met AYP. Public School Choice is now a moot point since there will be an extremely limited number of schools that would be available.

Due to the U.S. Department of Education removal of Washington’s ESEA flexibility for the 2014–15 school year, the state assessment data notification data distribution will not occur until mid-August. The student assessment calendar had been set in the summer of 2013 with a timeline for collecting assessment data, providing the data back to school districts for their review, and the final public release of district and school achievement data.

The release of assessment data for districts to review was set for the second week in August. Because the test dates were set significantly before the removal of Washington's ESEA flexibility waivers, none of the timelines for assessments and data release could be changed. Many of Washington's schools start the last week of August, which adversely impacts the ability of districts to meet the 14-day letter requirement.

Washington State will ensure compliance with these conditions by providing appropriate guidance regarding these conditions to its school districts. In particular, Washington State intends to distribute a bulletin to all school districts that requires them to sign an assurance that they will meet the required parent notification requirements and that they will implement the 14-day requirement in 2015–16 as required in the U.S. Department of Education Guidance of October 2008. The bulletin will also require all districts to provide a dated copy of the Public School Choice notification letter to OSPI to retain in each district's Title I application file. OSPI's Title I office will verify that all districts have met the timeline with the receipt of each district's dated Public School Choice notification letter. The requirement to send OSPI a dated notification letter will also be made for the 2015–16 school year to ensure that districts meet the 14-day notification requirement.

Washington State further assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by October 31, 2014, a report that provides the total number of school districts within the state that had schools that entered or exited improvement status in the 2014–15 school year, and the total number of school districts within the state that took advantage of the waiver and provided some parents notice of Public School Choice less than 14 days before the start of the 2014–15 school year.

Please feel free to contact Gil Mendoza, Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs & Federal Accountability, at (360) 725-6170 or email gil.mendoza@k12.wa.us, if you have any questions regarding this request. If you have any questions pertaining to Washington's assessment system, please contact Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent of K–12 Education, at (360) 725-6343 or email alan.burke@k12.wa.us.