

Old Capitol Building  
PO Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

k12.wa.us



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

January 14, 2022

The Honorable Frank T. Brogan  
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Washington State FY 2016 SIG Waiver of Eligibility Requirements Request

Dear Assistant Secretary Brogan:

I am writing to request a waiver on behalf of the state educational agency (SEA) and its subgrantees (i.e., local educational agencies [LEAs]), pursuant to section 8401(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), of one or more of the following requirements of Section 1003 of the ESEA, for the grants to LEAs on a formula or competitive basis.

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is requesting, on the behalf of all Washington state LEAs, the following waiver:

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 School Improvement Grants (SIG) program funds in the amount of \$163,000

I am requesting this waiver due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, for which a national emergency has been declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. As a result of this health crisis, schools and communities are facing unprecedented obstacles in the 2020–21 school year and continues to impact school and school communities.

Providing additional flexibilities in the use of 2016 School Improvement funds will advance student academic achievement by helping schools address their critical needs. The remaining balance will be used to work with community-based organizations to engage youth and families in educational efforts. These organizations have existing relationships with students and families and partnering with them on system improvements, as well as more targeted interventions, can advance academic achievement. The more we understand how to build and sustain relationships

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with community organizations, and the more they understand school systems and improvement efforts, the more impactful and sustainable our results.

In seeking this waiver, I assure that the SEA will:

- Collect feedback on the materials created, as well as administer pre- and post-evaluations to measure knowledge acquisition.
- Conduct follow-up interviews to see if practice and collaborations between LEAs and community organizations improved and/or expanded.
- Use and ensure that its LEAs use SIG funding in accordance with all other provisions of Section 1003 of the ESEA, and all applicable regulations, program plans, and applications.
- Provide the public and all LEAs in the state with notice of the opportunity to provide comments on this request in the manner in which the SEA customarily provides such notice and opportunity to comment, and has enclosed with this waiver request the comments received, if any, and a description of how the SEA addressed such comments.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Reykdal  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction