



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MAY 19 2015

The Honorable Andrew E. Kelly  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student and School Success  
Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Old Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Assistant Superintendent Kelly:

I am writing in response to your February 12, 2015 letter, requesting a waiver to permit local educational agencies (LEAs) that are implementing transformation models with School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to have additional time to meet the teacher and principal evaluation requirement in section I.A.2(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the SIG final requirements. In particular, you requested that thirteen Cohort 5 SIG schools be permitted to have until school year (SY) 2016–2017 to meet this requirement.

After reviewing the materials provided in support of this request, I am granting your request for this waiver for the four SIG schools that participated in the SY 2013–2014 field test of the Smarter Balanced assessments. I am granting this waiver for these schools because the U.S. Department of Education (ED) understands that participation in the SY 2013–2014 field test resulted in those schools not having SY 2013–2014 summative assessment data from statewide English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments to calculate growth for inclusion in teachers' and principals' evaluations in subsequent years. It is ED's understanding that these schools will include student growth based on statewide summative assessments in ELA and mathematics in teachers' and principals' evaluations in SY 2016–2017.

I appreciate Washington's efforts to be in compliance with the requirements of the SIG program and, at the same time, address the concerns of its LEAs and schools. However, I am declining your request for this waiver in the nine SIG schools that did not participate in the SY 2013–2014 field test of the Smarter Balanced assessments. An LEA that chooses to implement the transformation model in its SIG schools must implement all elements outlined in the SIG final requirements, including the implementation of rigorous, transparent, and equitable evaluation and support systems for teachers and principals that use multiple valid measures in determining performance levels, including as a significant factor data on student growth for all students. Further, in evaluating an LEA's application for SIG funding, the State should consider whether each LEA has the capacity to implement the selected interventions fully and effectively in each school identified in its application.


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<http://www.ed.gov/>

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

Page 2 – The Honorable Andrew E. Kelly

Thank you for your continued commitment to enhancing education for all of Washington's students. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Bragdon at 202-453-6817 or Ashlee Schmidt at 202-401-9501 or [OSS.Washington@ed.gov](mailto:OSS.Washington@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah S. Delisle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary

cc: Dr. Gil Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent K-12 Education