



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 22 2013

The Honorable John Deasy
Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S. Beaudry Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Superintendent Deasy:

Congratulations on receiving approval of your district's request for waivers under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). You and your staff should be proud of the work you have completed and plan to do to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction in the districts participating in this joint waiver request. Full and effective implementation of your request for these waivers is critically important to accomplishing these goals. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is committed to working with your district and the other participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation, including by providing technical assistance and monitoring the progress of implementation toward the goals set forth for your schools and students.

The purpose of this letter is to provide some additional information about how to implement your approved request and how to meet certain obligations related to the approval of your request.

Condition on Approval

Your district's waiver request was approved subject to conditions. In order to request approval to implement these waivers beyond the 2013–2014 school year, the participating districts must submit to ED for review and approval an amended joint request incorporating the final version of the new school quality improvement system, along with final guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. The evaluation and support systems that are developed in accordance with these guidelines, and consistent with the commitments made in the districts' joint waiver request, must:

- be used to continually improve instruction
- meaningfully differentiate performance using at least three performance levels
- determine performance levels using multiple valid measures, including as a significant factor data on academic growth for all students (including English Learners and students with disabilities) and other measures of professional practice (which may be gathered through multiple formats and sources, such as observations based on rigorous teacher performance standards, teacher portfolios, and student and parent surveys)
- evaluate teachers and principals on a regular basis
- provide clear, timely, and useful feedback, including feedback that identifies needs and guides professional development
- inform personnel decisions

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Waivers Received Under Section 9401 of the ESEA

The waivers granted to your district have been granted pursuant to the Secretary's authority under section 9401 of the ESEA. Consistent with that authority, only the statutory requirements listed in the table enclosed with Secretary Duncan's letter approving your request, and the related regulatory requirements, have been waived. Each of the participating districts remains obligated to comply with all other requirements of the ESEA, including, for example, the fiscal requirements in ESEA section 1120A, the regulatory requirements for calculating graduation rates, the caps on the number of proficient and advanced scores of students with disabilities who take an alternate assessment based on alternate or modified academic achievement standards that may be included in accountability determinations, and the requirements related to equitable services. In addition, the requirements to determine whether schools have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) and to identify schools for improvement, corrective action, and restructuring have not been waived, and any State laws or regulations, including those related to AYP or school improvement status, are not affected by the waivers granted to your district.

The waivers that are included in the table enclosed with Secretary Duncan's letter also include a waiver that permits the participating districts to operate a schoolwide program in a priority or focus school that does not meet the 40 percent poverty threshold. Please note that this waiver applies only to Title I priority and focus schools and to priority schools that are either Tier II schools served with School Improvement Grant funds to implement an intervention model or Title I-eligible high schools with a graduation rate below 60 percent. To clarify, if the participating districts identify non-Title I schools as focus schools or non-Title I schools other than those listed above as priority schools, this waiver would not be applicable to those additional schools. Please note that approval of the participating districts' request for this waiver does not waive any other requirements related to schoolwide programs; it merely modifies the universe of schools that may implement a schoolwide program.

Waivers of Requirements to Provide Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Transportation for Public School Choice

Under your district's approved waiver request, your district is no longer required by Federal law to offer SES or transportation for public school choice. However, your district may choose to continue to provide either SES and/or transportation for public school choice. If these options are not exercised, your district may begin implementing this waiver of SES and transportation for public school choice in the 2013–2014 school year.

If the options to continue offering transportation for public school choice and SES are not exercised, ED expects that your district will provide parents with information to explain why SES and transportation for public school choice will no longer be offered beginning in the 2013–2014 school year, explain the interventions, incentives, and supports that will replace those options, and provide other relevant details regarding the termination of the existing services. This information should be provided as early as feasible so that parents may plan accordingly, and should be provided in a language and format that is understandable to parents. ED also expects that similar information about the status of SES will be provided to all SES providers that have been approved by the State educational agency (SEA) to provide SES in your district.

Please note that, although your district will no longer be obligated by Federal law to provide transportation for public school choice, under ESEA section 1116(b)(13), which is not waived, a student who is already taking advantage of public school choice must be permitted to remain at his or her school of choice until he or she has completed the highest grade in that school. This right should be clearly explained to parents in the information

that is provided regarding the changes being made with respect to the provision of SES and public school choice. To enable parents to exercise this right, ED encourages your district to consider providing transportation to these schools of choice.

Amendments to Your Waiver Request

ED encourages the districts participating in this waiver to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the plans and other elements of their waiver request as they proceed with implementation, and to make necessary changes to address any challenges they identify. As a result of this process of continuous improvement, ED anticipates that the participating districts might want or need to make changes to the waiver request.

If the participating districts wish to make changes to the waiver request, they must submit these changes to ED as early as feasible for ED's review and approval. Upon receipt of the proposed changes, ED will determine whether the changes require additional peer review. The participating districts may not implement any changes to their approved request until those changes have been approved by ED. Although some amendments will be considered technical amendments to the request, other amendments will be handled more formally and may require public comment. The participating districts should work with ED staff, either directly or through CORE, to determine the appropriate process for any amendment requests. Please note that ED does not anticipate approving an amendment that would result in the participating districts no longer meeting key timelines in their request, such as the timeline for implementing college- and career-ready standards and aligned assessments or the timeline for implementing new teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. ED also does not anticipate approving amendment requests unique to individual districts.

Continuing Consultation

Meaningfully engaging and soliciting input from teachers and their representatives, and other diverse stakeholders, was an important part of developing the participating districts' waiver request. Such consultation will be equally important as you proceed with implementing the waiver.

Submission of Reports, Data, and Evidence

ESEA section 9401(e)(1) requires a district that receives a waiver under section 9401 to, at the end of the second year for which a waiver is received and each subsequent year, submit a report to the SEA that: (1) describes the uses of the waiver by the district or by schools; (2) describes how schools continued to provide assistance to the same populations served by the programs for which waivers were granted; and (3) evaluates the progress of the district and of schools in improving the quality of instruction or the academic achievement of students. In accordance with that provision and as assured in the request for these waivers, the participating districts must provide ED certain reports, data, and evidence regarding their progress in implementing the plans and other elements of their approved request. ED staff will communicate with CORE to discuss the future reporting requirements and the methods for providing ED with required data. Note that the California State Board of Education as the SEA for California remains obligated to provide certain information to ED through *EDFacts* and the Consolidated State Performance Report; those State-level reporting obligations are not affected by the waivers provided to your district. ED will communicate to CORE any additional requests for data that may be associated with ED's monitoring of the participating districts' waiver implementation.

Monitoring

ED plans to monitor the participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation of the approved waiver request. ED will track the districts' progress and success in implementing the plans and other elements of its approved waiver request, including alignment with the contents of the waiver request and required timelines as outlined in the waiver request. ED will closely monitor the districts to ensure that schools within the participating districts and the participating districts themselves continue to provide appropriate supports and interventions for all subgroups. ED will closely monitor to ensure that the participating districts are in compliance with Federal

civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in their implementation of the waivers. ED expects to begin monitoring the participating districts during the 2013–2014 school year and will provide additional information on its monitoring plans in the coming weeks. ED will also continue to monitor the State of California for the Federal programs associated with this waiver request, and such monitoring may include monitoring at the district level.

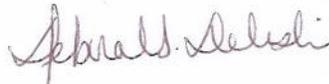
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Secretary's Right to Terminate Waivers

Under ESEA section 9401(f), the Secretary must terminate a waiver if the Secretary determines, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that the performance of the entity affected by the waiver has been inadequate to justify a continuation of the waiver or if the waiver is no longer necessary to achieve its original purpose. The Secretary may terminate a district's waivers if the district does not implement its request as approved by ED, if the district fails to submit in a timely manner the required reports, data, and evidence, or fails to submit in a timely manner updated lists of priority, focus, and reward schools. If your district's waivers are terminated, your district must immediately resume complying with the requirements of current law.

I hope you find this information helpful. Congratulations again on receiving approval of your district's waiver request. I look forward to working with you and your staff as you implement this flexibility and as you continue working to improve education in your district.

Sincerely,

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

Deborah Delisle
Assistant Secretary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 22 2013

The Honorable Gary Yee
Superintendent, Oakland City Unified School District
1025 Second Ave.
Oakland, CA 94606

Dear Superintendent Yee:

Congratulations on receiving approval of your district's request for waivers under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). You and your staff should be proud of the work you have completed and plan to do to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction in the districts participating in this joint waiver request. Full and effective implementation of your request for these waivers is critically important to accomplishing these goals. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is committed to working with your district and the other participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation, including by providing technical assistance and monitoring the progress of implementation toward the goals set forth for your schools and students.

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Sincerely,



Deborah Delisle
Assistant Secretary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 22 2013

The Honorable Jonathan P. Raymond
Superintendent, Sacramento City Unified School District
5735 47th Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95824

Dear Superintendent Raymond:

Congratulations on receiving approval of your district's request for waivers under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). You and your staff should be proud of the work you have completed and plan to do to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction in the districts participating in this joint waiver request. Full and effective implementation of your request for these waivers is critically important to accomplishing these goals. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is committed to working with your district and the other participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation, including by providing technical assistance and monitoring the progress of implementation toward the goals set forth for your schools and students.

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NOV 22 2013

The Honorable Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent, Long Beach City Unified School District
1515 Hughes Way
Long Beach, CA 90810

Dear Superintendent Steinhauser:

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The waivers granted to your district have been granted pursuant to the Secretary's authority under section 9401 of the ESEA. Consistent with that authority, only the statutory requirements listed in the table enclosed with Secretary Duncan's letter approving your request, and the related regulatory requirements, have been waived. Each of the participating districts remains obligated to comply with all other requirements of the ESEA, including, for example, the fiscal requirements in ESEA section 1120A, the regulatory requirements for calculating graduation rates, the caps on the number of proficient and advanced scores of students with disabilities who take an alternate assessment based on alternate or modified academic achievement standards that may be included in accountability determinations, and the requirements related to equitable services. In addition, the requirements to determine whether schools have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) and to identify schools for improvement, corrective action, and restructuring have not been waived, and any State laws or regulations, including those related to AYP or school improvement status, are not affected by the waivers granted to your district.

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If the options to continue offering transportation for public school choice and SES are not exercised, ED expects that your district will provide parents with information to explain why SES and transportation for public school choice will no longer be offered beginning in the 2013–2014 school year, explain the interventions, incentives, and supports that will replace those options, and provide other relevant details regarding the termination of the existing services. This information should be provided as early as feasible so that parents may plan accordingly, and should be provided in a language and format that is understandable to parents. ED also expects that similar information about the status of SES will be provided to all SES providers that have been approved by the State educational agency (SEA) to provide SES in your district.

Please note that, although your district will no longer be obligated by Federal law to provide transportation for public school choice, under ESEA section 1116(b)(13), which is not waived, a student who is already taking advantage of public school choice must be permitted to remain at his or her school of choice until he or she has completed the highest grade in that school. This right should be clearly explained to parents in the information

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Amendments to Your Waiver Request

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Meaningfully engaging and soliciting input from teachers and their representatives, and other diverse stakeholders, was an important part of developing the participating districts' waiver request. Such consultation will be equally important as you proceed with implementing the waiver.

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Monitoring

ED plans to monitor the participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation of the approved waiver request. ED will track the districts' progress and success in implementing the plans and other elements of its approved waiver request, including alignment with the contents of the waiver request and required timelines as outlined in the waiver request. ED will closely monitor the districts to ensure that schools within the participating districts and the participating districts themselves continue to provide appropriate supports and interventions for all subgroups. ED will closely monitor to ensure that the participating districts are in compliance with Federal

civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in their implementation of the waivers. ED expects to begin monitoring the participating districts during the 2013–2014 school year and will provide additional information on its monitoring plans in the coming weeks. ED will also continue to monitor the State of California for the Federal programs associated with this waiver request, and such monitoring may include monitoring at the district level.

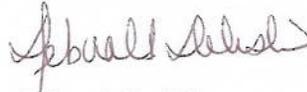
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I hope you find this information helpful. Congratulations again on receiving approval of your district's waiver request. I look forward to working with you and your staff as you implement this flexibility and as you continue working to improve education in your district.

Sincerely,



Deborah Delisle
Assistant Secretary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 22 2013

The Honorable Richard Carranza
Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District
555 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Superintendent Carranza:

Congratulations on receiving approval of your district's request for waivers under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). You and your staff should be proud of the work you have completed and plan to do to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction in the districts participating in this joint waiver request. Full and effective implementation of your request for these waivers is critically important to accomplishing these goals. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is committed to working with your district and the other participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation, including by providing technical assistance and monitoring the progress of implementation toward the goals set forth for your schools and students.

The purpose of this letter is to provide some additional information about how to implement your approved request and how to meet certain obligations related to the approval of your request.

Condition on Approval

Your district's waiver request was approved subject to conditions. In order to request approval to implement these waivers beyond the 2013–2014 school year, the participating districts must submit to ED for review and approval an amended joint request incorporating the final version of the new school quality improvement system, along with final guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. The evaluation and support systems that are developed in accordance with these guidelines, and consistent with the commitments made in the districts' joint waiver request, must:

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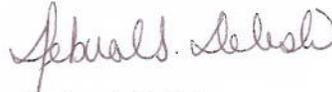
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I hope you find this information helpful. Congratulations again on receiving approval of your district's waiver request. I look forward to working with you and your staff as you implement this flexibility and as you continue working to improve education in your district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deborah Delisle". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Deborah Delisle
Assistant Secretary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 22 2013

The Honorable Matthew Navo
Superintendent, Sanger Unified School District
1905 Seventh Street
Sanger, CA 93657

Dear Superintendent Navo:

Congratulations on receiving approval of your district's request for waivers under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). You and your staff should be proud of the work you have completed and plan to do to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction in the districts participating in this joint waiver request. Full and effective implementation of your request for these waivers is critically important to accomplishing these goals. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is committed to working with your district and the other participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation, including by providing technical assistance and monitoring the progress of implementation toward the goals set forth for your schools and students.

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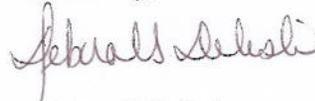
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Deborah Delisle
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 22 2013

The Honorable Rick Miller
Superintendent, Santa Ana Unified School District
1601 East Chestnut Ave.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Superintendent Miller:

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As detailed in your district's waiver request, ED expects to receive the participating districts' final guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation systems by December 1, 2013. Additionally, the participating districts, in collaboration with the California Office to Reform Education (CORE), must submit an amended joint request that fully addresses both conditions by May 1, 2014. If the districts fail to submit the required information, or fail to receive approval of the amended request, the waivers granted to the districts will expire at the end of the 2013–2014 school year.

Waivers Received Under Section 9401 of the ESEA

The waivers granted to your district have been granted pursuant to the Secretary's authority under section 9401 of the ESEA. Consistent with that authority, only the statutory requirements listed in the table enclosed with Secretary Duncan's letter approving your request, and the related regulatory requirements, have been waived. Each of the participating districts remains obligated to comply with all other requirements of the ESEA, including, for example, the fiscal requirements in ESEA section 1120A, the regulatory requirements for calculating graduation rates, the caps on the number of proficient and advanced scores of students with disabilities who take an alternate assessment based on alternate or modified academic achievement standards that may be included in accountability determinations, and the requirements related to equitable services. In addition, the requirements to determine whether schools have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) and to identify schools for improvement, corrective action, and restructuring have not been waived, and any State laws or regulations, including those related to AYP or school improvement status, are not affected by the waivers granted to your district.

The waivers that are included in the table enclosed with Secretary Duncan's letter also include a waiver that permits the participating districts to operate a schoolwide program in a priority or focus school that does not meet the 40 percent poverty threshold. Please note that this waiver applies only to Title I priority and focus schools and to priority schools that are either Tier II schools served with School Improvement Grant funds to implement an intervention model or Title I-eligible high schools with a graduation rate below 60 percent. To clarify, if the participating districts identify non-Title I schools as focus schools or non-Title I schools other than those listed above as priority schools, this waiver would not be applicable to those additional schools. Please note that approval of the participating districts' request for this waiver does not waive any other requirements related to schoolwide programs; it merely modifies the universe of schools that may implement a schoolwide program.

Waivers of Requirements to Provide Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Transportation for Public School Choice

Under your district's approved waiver request, your district is no longer required by Federal law to offer SES or transportation for public school choice. However, your district may choose to continue to provide either SES and/or transportation for public school choice. If these options are not exercised, your district may begin implementing this waiver of SES and transportation for public school choice in the 2013–2014 school year.

If the options to continue offering transportation for public school choice and SES are not exercised, ED expects that your district will provide parents with information to explain why SES and transportation for public school choice will no longer be offered beginning in the 2013–2014 school year, explain the interventions, incentives, and supports that will replace those options, and provide other relevant details regarding the termination of the existing services. This information should be provided as early as feasible so that parents may plan accordingly, and should be provided in a language and format that is understandable to parents. ED also expects that similar information about the status of SES will be provided to all SES providers that have been approved by the State educational agency (SEA) to provide SES in your district.

Please note that, although your district will no longer be obligated by Federal law to provide transportation for public school choice, under ESEA section 1116(b)(13), which is not waived, a student who is already taking advantage of public school choice must be permitted to remain at his or her school of choice until he or she has completed the highest grade in that school. This right should be clearly explained to parents in the information

that is provided regarding the changes being made with respect to the provision of SES and public school choice. To enable parents to exercise this right, ED encourages your district to consider providing transportation to these schools of choice.

Amendments to Your Waiver Request

ED encourages the districts participating in this waiver to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the plans and other elements of their waiver request as they proceed with implementation, and to make necessary changes to address any challenges they identify. As a result of this process of continuous improvement, ED anticipates that the participating districts might want or need to make changes to the waiver request.

If the participating districts wish to make changes to the waiver request, they must submit these changes to ED as early as feasible for ED's review and approval. Upon receipt of the proposed changes, ED will determine whether the changes require additional peer review. The participating districts may not implement any changes to their approved request until those changes have been approved by ED. Although some amendments will be considered technical amendments to the request, other amendments will be handled more formally and may require public comment. The participating districts should work with ED staff, either directly or through CORE, to determine the appropriate process for any amendment requests. Please note that ED does not anticipate approving an amendment that would result in the participating districts no longer meeting key timelines in their request, such as the timeline for implementing college- and career-ready standards and aligned assessments or the timeline for implementing new teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. ED also does not anticipate approving amendment requests unique to individual districts.

Continuing Consultation

Meaningfully engaging and soliciting input from teachers and their representatives, and other diverse stakeholders, was an important part of developing the participating districts' waiver request. Such consultation will be equally important as you proceed with implementing the waiver.

Submission of Reports, Data, and Evidence

ESEA section 9401(e)(1) requires a district that receives a waiver under section 9401 to, at the end of the second year for which a waiver is received and each subsequent year, submit a report to the SEA that: (1) describes the uses of the waiver by the district or by schools; (2) describes how schools continued to provide assistance to the same populations served by the programs for which waivers were granted; and (3) evaluates the progress of the district and of schools in improving the quality of instruction or the academic achievement of students. In accordance with that provision and as assured in the request for these waivers, the participating districts must provide ED certain reports, data, and evidence regarding their progress in implementing the plans and other elements of their approved request. ED staff will communicate with CORE to discuss the future reporting requirements and the methods for providing ED with required data. Note that the California State Board of Education as the SEA for California remains obligated to provide certain information to ED through *EDFacts* and the Consolidated State Performance Report; those State-level reporting obligations are not affected by the waivers provided to your district. ED will communicate to CORE any additional requests for data that may be associated with ED's monitoring of the participating districts' waiver implementation.

Monitoring

ED plans to monitor the participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation of the approved waiver request. ED will track the districts' progress and success in implementing the plans and other elements of its approved waiver request, including alignment with the contents of the waiver request and required timelines as outlined in the waiver request. ED will closely monitor the districts to ensure that schools within the participating districts and the participating districts themselves continue to provide appropriate supports and interventions for all subgroups. ED will closely monitor to ensure that the participating districts are in compliance with Federal

civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in their implementation of the waivers. ED expects to begin monitoring the participating districts during the 2013–2014 school year and will provide additional information on its monitoring plans in the coming weeks. ED will also continue to monitor the State of California for the Federal programs associated with this waiver request, and such monitoring may include monitoring at the district level.

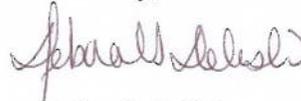
Please note that as the districts' implementation of these waivers proceeds, ED may adjust the reports, data, and evidence it needs to track implementation, as appropriate. ED will keep you apprised of any modifications.

Secretary's Right to Terminate Waivers

Under ESEA section 9401(f), the Secretary must terminate a waiver if the Secretary determines, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that the performance of the entity affected by the waiver has been inadequate to justify a continuation of the waiver or if the waiver is no longer necessary to achieve its original purpose. The Secretary may terminate a district's waivers if the district does not implement its request as approved by ED, if the district fails to submit in a timely manner the required reports, data, and evidence, or fails to submit in a timely manner updated lists of priority, focus, and reward schools. If your district's waivers are terminated, your district must immediately resume complying with the requirements of current law.

I hope you find this information helpful. Congratulations again on receiving approval of your district's waiver request. I look forward to working with you and your staff as you implement this flexibility and as you continue working to improve education in your district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah Delisle".

Deborah Delisle
Assistant Secretary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 22 2013

The Honorable Michael E. Hanson
Superintendent, Fresno Unified School District
2309 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Superintendent Hanson:

Congratulations on receiving approval of your district's request for waivers under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). You and your staff should be proud of the work you have completed and plan to do to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction in the districts participating in this joint waiver request. Full and effective implementation of your request for these waivers is critically important to accomplishing these goals. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is committed to working with your district and the other participating districts to ensure full and effective implementation, including by providing technical assistance and monitoring the progress of implementation toward the goals set forth for your schools and students.

The purpose of this letter is to provide some additional information about how to implement your approved request and how to meet certain obligations related to the approval of your request.

Condition on Approval

Your district's waiver request was approved subject to conditions. In order to request approval to implement these waivers beyond the 2013–2014 school year, the participating districts must submit to ED for review and approval an amended joint request incorporating the final version of the new school quality improvement system, along with final guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. The evaluation and support systems that are developed in accordance with these guidelines, and consistent with the commitments made in the districts' joint waiver request, must:

- be used to continually improve instruction
- meaningfully differentiate performance using at least three performance levels
- determine performance levels using multiple valid measures, including as a significant factor data on academic growth for all students (including English Learners and students with disabilities) and other measures of professional practice (which may be gathered through multiple formats and sources, such as observations based on rigorous teacher performance standards, teacher portfolios, and student and parent surveys)
- evaluate teachers and principals on a regular basis
- provide clear, timely, and useful feedback, including feedback that identifies needs and guides professional development
- inform personnel decisions

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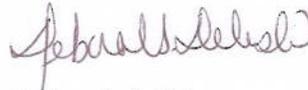
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