



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RYAN M. WISE, DIRECTOR

May 17, 2016

Michael Wells, Group Leader
Office of State Support, OESE
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3W103
Washington, DC 20202-6132

Dear Dr. Wells:

Attached to this letter are the required elements for full electronic submission of Iowa's **School Improvement Grants Application for FY 2015/2016 New and Continuation Awards Competition.**

Attachments included:

- Attachment A: Iowa Signed SIG Application Cover Sheet (a hard copy of this letter including the original signature has been mailed to you at the provided address.)
- Attachment B: Application for FY 2015/2016 New and Continuation Awards Competition

Additional Clarification:

Due to Iowa's small SIG allocation, we elect to combine two years of SIG awards to form a cohort of more than one building. FY 14 was held in reserve to combine with FY 15 with plans to create a new SIG cohort. Because Iowa did not run data to determine eligibility for grant application during the FY14 application, and due to Iowa electing to not run current AYP data for the this school year, we won't have adequate data to form a listing of Tier I and Tier II eligible buildings for the next grant application.

Furthermore, during the FY13 (Iowa's SIG Cohort 3) competition, Iowa had only enough funds to award grants to three of the four applicants. The fourth applicant, who was denied a grant due to Iowa's funding limitations, has been fully implementing the SIG using district funds along-side the fully funded Cohort 3 buildings. The support given, and expectations of this building, have been identical to the three grant funded Cohort 3 buildings. Des Moines Public Schools is to be commended for realizing the urgency in serving the students, teachers, families, and community of Monroe Elementary with the same supports given the fully-funded SIG buildings.

Because of these unique circumstances, Iowa is requesting the FY 2015/2016 funds be used to extend our current cohort for two additional years of implementation (five years total), and include official SIG funding for Des Moines Public School's Monroe Elementary, unfunded FY13 applicant, to implement the SIG for an official three years beginning in the 2016/2017 school year. This hybrid implementation will allow the cohort to remain intact and receive the same supports required of the SIG with full federal funding. We will require each district submit amended budgets for all four buildings.

We look forward to hearing from you that Iowa has been approved for continuation awards and to officially add and fund Monroe Elementary as part of our current Cohort 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Williamson".

Amy Williamson, Chief
Bureau of School Improvement

Attachments

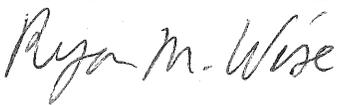
Grimes State Office Building - 400 E 14th St - Des Moines IA 50319-0146

PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988

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Championing Excellence for all Iowa Students through Leadership and Service

APPLICATION COVER SHEET
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

<p>Legal Name of Applicant: Iowa Department of Education</p>	<p>Applicant's Mailing Address: Grimes State Office Building 400 E 14th Street Des Moines, IA 50319-0146</p>
<p>State Contact for the School Improvement Grant</p> <p>Name: Amy Williamson</p> <p>Position and Office: Iowa Department of Education Bureau Chief, Bureau of School Improvement</p> <p>Contact's Mailing Address: 400 E 14th Street Des Moines, IA 50319</p> <p>Telephone: (515) 339-4122</p> <p>Fax: (515) 242-5988</p> <p>Email address: Amy.williamson@iowa.gov</p>	
<p>Chief State School Officer (Printed Name): Ryan Wise, Ed.L.D. Director</p>	<p>Telephone: (515) 281-3436</p>
<p>Signature of the Chief State School Officer: X </p>	<p>Date: May 10, 2016</p>
<p>The State, through its authorized representative, agrees to comply with all requirements applicable to the School Improvement Grants program, including the assurances contained herein and the conditions that apply to any waivers that the State receives through this application.</p>	