



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

333 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333
www.education.state.pa.us

Sept. 4, 2014

Mr Joseph S Kovalchik
Superintendent
Northampton Area School District
2014 Laubach Avenue
Northampton, PA 18067-0118

Dear Mr. Kovalchik:

It is my pleasure to approve your school district's request for a 3-year waiver of Section 1113(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). This waiver permits the Northampton Area School District to provide Title I services to otherwise ineligible Moore Elementary School. The percentage of children from low-income families who attend Moore Elementary School(23%) is not more than 10 percentage points below the low-income percentage of eligible Col. John Siegfried Elementary School(28.45%). Should these margins ever increase to *more than* 10 percentage points during the 3-year period covered by this waiver, then the waiver would become null and void.

This 3-year waiver is effective beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and will expire at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. The waiver is granted based on our understanding of the current situation in the district.

The waiver is granted with the expectation that students affected by the waiver will continue to make progress academically. The Division of Federal Programs will take such progress into account when determining whether or not to grant an extension of the waiver, should one be sought. In addition, the district is reminded of its duty under Section 9401(e) of the No Child Left Behind Act to submit, at the end of the waiver period, a report to the Department of Education. The report shall:

- Describe the use of the waiver,
- Describe how the school continued to provide assistance to the same populations served by the programs for which waivers were requested, and
- Evaluate progress in improving the quality of instruction through students' academic achievement.

If you have any questions concerning this waiver approval, please contact your Regional Coordinator or Tucker McKissick in the Division of Federal Programs at (717) 783-3381.

Sincerely,

Susan McCrone
Chief, Division of Federal Programs

Pennsylvania

DEPARTEMNT OF EDUCATION

Federal (Ed-Flex) Waiver Program Application

Local Education Agency (LEA): Northampton Area School District

Administrator: Dr. Kathleen E. Ott

Address: 2014 Laubach Avenue

City: Northampton

State: PA

Zip Code: 18067

Contact Name: Dr. Kathleen E. Ott

Phone Number: 610-262-7811 x20030

Fax Number: 610-262-1150

Email: ottk@nasdschools.org

School Year Requested: 2014-2017

Section 1 -Federal program and section to be waived. Describe the current program, provide the appropriate legal citation and specify the provision(s) from which relief is sought.

The Northampton Area School District is seeking a waiver from **Part A — Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies – Section 1113(a)(2)** which states the following:
SEC. 1113. ELIGIBLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS.

(a) DETERMINATION-

(1) IN GENERAL- A local educational agency shall use funds received under this part only in eligible school attendance areas.

(2) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS- For the purposes of this part —

(A) the term 'school attendance area' means, in relation to a particular school, the geographical area in which the children who are normally served by that school reside; and

(B) the term 'eligible school attendance area' means a school attendance area in which the percentage of children from low-income families is at least as high as the percentage of children from low-income families served by the local educational agency as a whole.

More specifically, we are asking to include Moore Elementary as a Targeted Assistance program for Reading and Math supplemental instruction through Title I, Part A.

Section 2 - Specify the need, purpose, and educational goals of the waiver request. Explain how the LEA will continue to serve students in other schools affected by the waiver.

As the Northampton Area School District continues to review and revise the curricula to ensure alignment with the PA Core Standards including integrated technology in all areas of instruction, it has become even more apparent that we need to provide supplemental services in Reading and Math in all of our schools, but in particular, George Wolf Elementary, Borough Elementary and Moore Elementary. Title I services have been successfully delivered at Moore Elementary over the last several years. In the event Title I funds were withdrawn from that school, the supplemental instruction would be difficult to provide and the academic success of the students would be impacted. The challenge presented to our educational staff by

the varied academic needs of students in our classrooms requires that our staff be better prepared to vary their instruction to meet academic deficits. We recognize the need for students to increase literacy and mathematical skills/content, while we provide supplemental opportunities for students to reinforce foundational skills in these areas. We can do this by providing supplemental instruction and materials from the established curriculum to expand the current program. The Title I funds are used to provide instruction and purchase leveled resources for the students who are below basic levels in the targeted schools. With the approval of this waiver, the district can successfully continue providing the needed supplemental services in the targeted schools, including Moore Elementary.

Section 3 - Explain how the waiver will enable the LEA to: 1) improve the quality of instruction; 2) reach the expressed educational goals; and 3) continue to serve non-public school students.

Our district's Title I funds are used to provide salaries and benefits for our Title I staff who serve students in our schools' first through sixth grades in reading and mathematics at our identified schools. Overall, Title I teachers provide individual instruction, as well as, full group classroom instruction in reading and mathematics. Time within the regular schedule allows for an RtII-Tier II & Tier III Intervention/Enrichment pullout periods with appropriate materials in reading and math. The district budget covers the standards aligned curricula and regular teacher in-serving in best practices to provide a solid foundation for quality teaching and student success. The district needs the Title I funding to achieve the goals of continued academic achievement and growth in all core content areas through the tasks listed above. The Ed-Flex waiver will allow us to continue the focus on academic growth in Reading & Math at George Wolf, Borough, and Moore Elementary Schools.

The same is true in our delivery of academic supplemental services in Reading and Math at the Non-Public Schools. Many of our students attend those schools. Title I funding is needed to support academic growth in those educational settings.

Section 4 - Describe the expected results to be obtained by the waiver, and include achievement data and technical information. Explain how the LEA provided notice and information to the public regarding the waiver request.

The anticipated results from the Ed-Flex Waiver approval to include Moore Elementary as a Title I-TA school includes an overall improvement in the PSSA results in ELA (English Language Arts), Math, and Science for Moore Elementary in 2015. Currently the proficient scores for 2014 Moore Elementary are: 1) Math – 80%; 2) Reading – 71%; 3) Science-89%; and 4) Writing – 80%. These scores reflect PVAAS academic growth at grade levels with Title I funding at Moore Elementary in 2013-2014.

It is anticipated that the growth will continue with supplemental instruction and resources. The data teams have looked closely at the educational growth goals and have determined the expected growth to range from, overall, 7% -10% proficiency increase in ELA; 3% - 5% proficiency increase in Math. It is further anticipated that the DIBELS benchmarking scores (Grades 1, 2) will improve overall by 3% in 2014-2015 with the Title I supplemental instruction available to the students attending Moore Elementary.

All Title I parents will be informed of the Ed-Flex Waiver approval through building meetings, building newsletters, and the District website.

Section 5 - Describe the evaluation procedure including measures of student performance that the district will use to determine: 1) the effectiveness of an innovative program; 2) the effectiveness of a revised instructional program; and 3) how the waiver extension is in the public interest.

At the beginning of every year, the principals and teachers participate in instructional planning meetings, including the district-wide data retreat when baseline data is used to form instructional groups and develop instructional support plans.

Part of this planning for schools involves how the core-reading program, supplemental materials, and intervention programs will be used as part of daily reading instruction. Additionally, planning includes the integration of reading strategies into multiple course content areas.

Measurement is used to inform the teaching and learning process. Are the students making progress? Showing growth? The important thing is to gain as much information as possible with respect to what the student has achieved, what has not been achieved, and what the student requires to best facilitate further progress. The majority of teachers use assessment data results to evaluate and adjust their instructional practice in the areas most needed for student improvement. It is the instructional changes that enhance student learning. The assessment data in Grades 1 and 2 for Reading skills include DIBELS, and local quarterly assessments. For mathematics, Study Island Benchmarks are used regularly for data analysis and academic growth determination.

Quarterly data meetings at the elementary school levels provide teachers with the opportunity to analyze student data and benchmarking results in order to determine which reading/math goals have been met and which goals need more instructional time. Teachers examine data to identify possible reasons why students did not meet reading goals. Specific instructional goals are also identified for small group instruction based on student reading performance, classroom observations, and other sources of data.

It is very specific to Moore Elementary in that the supplemental Title I services in Reading and Math will continue to allow the greatest adjustments and reinforcements to learning which will increase academic growth for students. Student data and overall performance is shared with parents throughout the year at parent conferences, end of marking periods, and at various building/district sponsored events throughout the year (Title I Night, Literacy Night, Science Fairs, and parent trainings). School-wide data from state assessments is also communicated to parents and the school board of directors.

Section 6 - If applying for an extension of an approved waiver, explain: 1) the effectiveness of the waiver; 2) how the waiver improved student performance; and 3) how the waiver extension is in the public interest.

N/A

Affirmation

The administrator has reviewed the application and has determined that in waiving section: 1113(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) the LEA will not violate any court order, state law, or federal law.

The administrator acknowledges that it is the LEA's responsibility to ensure that implementation of the waiver will be consistent with the terms of any court order, collective bargaining agreement or contract by which the LEA is bound.

Signature

Title

Date

Joseph A. Kraler
Superintendent
Sept. 4, 2014