

**Oklahoma Request
to
Allow LEAs to Offer SES, in Addition
to Public School Choice, to Eligible
Students in Title I Schools in the First
Year of School Improvement**

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Contact:

**Dr. Cindy Koss
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Oklahoma State Department of Education
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599
(405) 521-3361**

**OKLAHOMA REQUEST TO ALLOW LEAs TO OFFER SES, IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE,
TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS IN TITLE I SCHOOLS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

Dr. Joseph C. Conaty
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 3W225
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Dr. Conaty:

I am writing on behalf of Oklahoma to request a one-year waiver to allow local educational agencies (LEAs) within Oklahoma with one or more schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring to offer supplemental educational services (SES), in addition to or instead of public school choice, to eligible students in Title I schools in the first year of school improvement and to count the funds spent providing SES to eligible students in those schools toward the LEA’s obligation to spend an amount at least equal to 20 percent of its Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 allocation on SES and choice-related transportation (20 percent obligation). In the absence of such a waiver, an LEA may only count funds spent providing SES to eligible students attending schools in the second year of improvement, in corrective action, or in restructuring toward its 20 percent obligation (ESEA section 1116(b)(10); 34 C.F.R. § 200.48).

Oklahoma believes that the requested waiver will increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students by providing an incentive for an LEA to offer SES to eligible students one year earlier than the law requires, thereby enabling more students within an LEA to enroll in SES. Oklahoma believes that parents of children attending schools in the first year of improvement will be eager to enroll their children in SES, and that the increased enrollment in SES thus enabled by the waiver will contribute to improving student achievement.

Oklahoma has set the following annual measurable objectives (AMOs) in reading and mathematics, which are among the subjects that are covered by SES providers in Oklahoma, for the 2009–2010 school year:

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for Oklahoma Schools and Districts
Timeline for Statewide Performance Targets in Math and Reading
Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**

	Baseline 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Math <i>api</i>	648	648	790	790	790	932	932	932	1074	1074	1216	1358	1500
Reading <i>api</i>	622	622	768	768	768	914	914	914	1060	1060	1206	1352	1500

Oklahoma will determine adequate yearly progress (AYP) based on assessments administered in the 2009–2010 school year in accordance with the requirements of section 1111(b)(2) of the ESEA. Oklahoma believes that, ultimately, allowing LEAs to offer SES to eligible students in Title I schools in the first year of improvement and count the costs of providing SES to those students toward the LEA’s 20 percent obligation may help more students within the State to reach the State’s proficiency objectives.

Oklahoma hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, Oklahoma will ensure that it will implement the waiver only with respect to those LEAs that will meet all statutory and regulatory requirements related to SES in the 2009–2010 school year (other than the particular funding requirement being waived).

Prior to submitting this waiver request, Oklahoma will provide the public and all LEAs in the State with notice and an opportunity to comment on this request. Methods of notification will include, but may not be limited to, posting on the Oklahoma State Department of Education Web site; a message to the Oklahoma Title I Directors Listserv, the School Improvement Advisory Committee, and District Superintendents; a phone conference with the Oklahoma Title I Committee of Practitioners; and the availability to comment at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma State Board of Education. Copies of comments that Oklahoma may receive from the public and LEAs in response to the notice and request for comment will be attached to the waiver request.

Oklahoma hereby assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver, it will submit to the U.S. Department of Education, by September 30, 2010, a report that sets forth the name and NCES District Identification Number for each LEA implementing the waiver.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email at (405) 521-4514 or <Cindy_Koss@sde.state.ok.us> if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Office of Standards and Curriculum
Oklahoma State Department of Education
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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599
(405) 521-3361