



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JUL 14 2016

The Honorable Kirsten Baesler
Superintendent of Public Instruction
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
601 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Superintendent Baesler:

I am pleased to approve North Dakota's application for fiscal year (FY) 2015 and FY 2016 funds under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program, authorized under Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by No Child Left Behind. This letter awards FY 2015 funds. A separate letter and Grant Award Notification will follow in a few months to award funds for FY 2016 with no further action required from North Dakota. I also approve North Dakota's request for an extension of the period of availability of FY 2015 funds under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)), until September 30, 2021, so that North Dakota may make subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) for up to five years. Please note that, in addition to obligating all FY 2015 funds by September 30, 2021, those funds must be liquidated by that date as well. Any funds not obligated and liquidated by that date will revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury. My approval of North Dakota's SIG application and request to extend the period of availability of the funds will allow North Dakota to fully implement SIG consistent with its approved State application and the revised SIG final requirements (available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/09/2015-02570/final-requirements-school-improvement-grants-title-i-of-the-elementary-and-secondary-education-act>). If North Dakota decides to make any amendments to its FY 2015 application, those amendments will need to be approved by the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

In addition, North Dakota submitted a State-determined intervention model for review and approval by ED. ED has reviewed the model submitted and has determined that it is consistent with the SIG final requirements section II.B.1(b). I am happy to approve North Dakota's model and, as a result, LEAs within your State may apply to implement the model.

Turning around our nation's lowest-achieving schools is one of the most significant challenges facing our educational system. I hope the FY 2015 SIG funds will enable you and your LEAs to continue this important work.

I appreciate the work you and your team are doing to meet the challenges of turning around your State's lowest-achieving schools and am confident that North Dakota's students will benefit from your focus

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

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

and advocacy. ED will continue to provide assistance and support you to implement the SIG interventions as effectively as possible. If you have any questions concerning the award notice for your State's SIG grant, please contact Megan Oberst or Jameel Scott of my staff at: OSS.NorthDakota@ed.gov.

Thank you for your continued commitment to enhancing education for all of North Dakota's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Whalen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ann Whalen
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
Delegated the Duties of Assistant Secretary for
Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Laurie Matzke, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction