July 15, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
    Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Paula White, Executive Director of the Regional Achievement Centers

SUBJECT: Opportunity to Comment on Waiver Request

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) offers an opportunity to provide comment regarding a waiver request to the United States Department of Education (USDE) for an extension of the availability of funds with regard to New Jersey’s School Improvement Fund, Part A (SIA).

School Improvement Fund, Part A (SIA), authorized under section 1003(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), directly supports New Jersey’s Priority schools for interventions which will improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps and improve the quality of instruction, as outlined under New Jersey’s ESEA flexibility waiver. Specifically, New Jersey provides entitlement grants directly to Priority schools as well as high-impact support directly to Priority schools through the Regional Achievement Centers (RACs).

Under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (the “Tydings Amendment”), FY 2013 SIA funds must be obligated by September 30, 2014. The NJDOE has requested to waive this to extend the period of availability of FY 2013 carryover SIA funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2015.

LEAs and the public may comment on this request at our Title I web site at http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/nclb/waiver/. NJDOE will submit copies of comments received after the comment period closes on August 15, 2014.

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c: Members, State Board of Education
    Senior Staff
    Executive County Superintendents
    Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
    Executive County School Business Administrators
    NJ LEE Group
    Garden State Coalition of Schools