May 13, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
    Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Karen L. Campbell, Director
    Office of Title I

SUBJECT: Bilingual Program Waiver Request 2014-2015

Annually, districts may request a waiver of N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(d), which requires a district to implement a full-time bilingual education program if it enrolls 20 or more English language learners in a single language group throughout grades kindergarten through 12. A waiver is necessary when the age range, grade span and/or geographic location of the district’s English language learners make it impractical for the district to provide a full-time bilingual program.

If your district is not currently providing a full-time bilingual education program, as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(d), it must request a waiver in order to implement an alternative bilingual instructional program for the 2014-2015 school year. Instructional program alternatives include, but are not limited to, a part-time bilingual program, a bilingual resource program, a bilingual tutorial, a sheltered English instruction program, and a high-intensity ESL program. For a description of these bilingual program alternatives, please see N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2 in http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap15.pdf.

The Bilingual Waiver State Data Submission application can be found under “Bilingual Waiver” on NJDOE Homeroom http://homeroom.state.nj.us. The completed waiver request must be submitted no later than June 30, 2014. Please note that the application has been updated since the 2013-2014 school year, and information will be entered in a different format. For district staff who completed the bilingual waiver online for the 2013-2014 school year, the login information remains the same; otherwise, please contact your district web user administrator for login information to this collection. When a review of the district’s bilingual waiver has been completed, districts will be notified of their approval status by mail.

If you have any questions, please call the Office of Title I’s Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education at (609) 292-8777 or e-mail at lep@doe.state.nj.us.

KC/LR/G/LORI/BilingualWaiverCSALetter2014
c: Members, State Board of Education
   Acting Commissioner David C. Hespe
   Senior Staff
   Susan Martz
   Diane Shoener
   Executive County Superintendents
   Executive County School Business Administrators
   Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
   Garden State Coalition of Schools
   New Jersey Lee Group