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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Bureau of School Improvement

DATE: December 20, 2013

SUBJECT: SIG Waiver

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2013-182

The final requirements for the School Improvement Grant (SIG), Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), invite state educational agencies (SEAs) to request waivers of certain requirements in order to allow local educational agencies (LEAs) that receive those funds to use them in accordance with the final requirements and the LEA's application for such a grant.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will be soliciting the following waiver and is inviting comments on its request to:

Waive the school eligibility requirements in Section I.A.1 of the SIG final requirements, in order to enable the State to replace its Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III schools with its list of priority and focus schools that meet the definition of "priority or focus schools" in Florida's approved ESEA flexibility request.

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The methodology for defining the list of priority and focus schools in the ESEA flexibility waiver is as follows:

1. The list defines all schools receiving a grade of “F” for 2011-12 as “Priority” and all schools receiving a grade of “D” for 2011-12 as “Focus.”
2. The Priority list also includes all SIG Cohort I and II schools, regardless of the 2011-12 school grade.
3. The Focus list also includes all Title I high schools with a grade of A, B, or C and a graduation rate below 60 percent in 2011-12.

The proposed eligibility list is attached. Any school receiving SIG 1003(g) funds in 2013-14 and any school that closed after the priority and focus lists were published have been excluded from the eligibility list.

If you have comments on the proposed waiver, please submit them to bsi@fldoe.org by Monday, January 6, 2014.

PS/sh

cc: Title I Directors
School Improvement District Contacts
Differentiated Accountability Regional Executive Directors