

Mr. Jason Botel  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-6100

Dear Mr. Botel:

I am writing on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to request approval of an amendment to Louisiana's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Title 1 1003 school improvement funding, to extend the period of availability of the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Title 1 1003 school improvement funds awarded under Section 1003 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, until September 30, 2021. This request for a waiver, submitted pursuant to section 8401 of ESSA, would permit the LDOE to sub-grant Title 1 1003 funds to local educational agencies (LEAs) to support school improvement at identified Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools for a period of up to 4 years.

This waiver request is consistent with ESSA section 1003(c), which indicates that 1003 subgrants may be awarded for a period of up to 4 years. The additional time afforded to LEAs by this waiver is in the public interest because it would enable LEAs to ensure that their CSI and TSI schools are able to use FY 2017 Title 1 1003 school improvement funds to support full and effective implementation of selected school improvement interventions. In the absence of a waiver, sub-grants would be limited to the general 27 month period of availability of Title I funds.

Prior to submitting this waiver request, the LDOE provided notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on the request to Louisiana LEAs and to the general public in the manner in which the LDOE customarily provides such notice. The LDOE provided this notice by posting it on the LDOE website on October 20th, 2017 and including it in the LDOE weekly school system newsletters on October 24th and 31st, 2017 date(s) (see copy of notice attached). Copies of all comments that the LDOE received from LEAs in response to this notice are attached hereto.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail at [john.hanley@la.gov](mailto:john.hanley@la.gov) if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.