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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor

July 28, 2009

The Honorable Dr. Joseph C. Conaty,  
Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education  
United States Department of Education  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

**RE: Request for Waiver of the Tydings Period for FFY07**

Dear Dr. Conaty:

On behalf of the New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) State Reading First Office, and the guidance of Ms. Carolyn Lampila our liaison to the Federal Reading First Office, we are seeking a waiver of the Tydings period (e.g. no cost extension) for New Mexico State Reading First project for FY07 funds, award number S357A070032A. Our budget office has informed me that we have approximately \$3,615,432.39 that is set to expire on September 30, 2009 if we do not receive the waiver.

We anticipate having these unexpended funds due to the following:

Admin Funds: 1) We have encumbered funds for 4 FTE Regional Reading First Specialist to provide Professional Development and Technical Support to 53 funded Reading First Schools. 2) We have encumbered funds for the External Evaluator to provide compliance and monitoring services to the SEA and LEA's until June 30, 2010. 3) It is not possible to obligate and liquidate within the required time frame for services that will be rendered to LEA's until June 30, 2010.

Flow through Funds: 1) Approved funds to LEA's may not be encumbered and fully expended by September 30, 2009 because many LEA's start their Reading First projects in August 2009 consequently the time frame is very short. 2) Approved funds for LEA's to rehire 53 full time Literacy coaches may not be obligated and liquidated with the required time frame.

If we receive this waiver NM PED will be able to implement the following Reading First project in New Mexico using combined FY08 Carryover Funds during school year 2009-2010:

#### Flow Through Funds

1. Reading First Funding for 18 Districts 53 Sites for the following elements:
  - a. 53 FTE Reading Coach including base salary and benefits
  - b. Student Assessments in grades k-3
  - c. Professional Development
  - d. Indirect Costs
2. Reading First Funding for wireless assessment for students in grades k-3
  - a. 12 Districts
  - b. 26 School sites
    - i. Total District receiving assessment funds for 15,164 students:
      1. 30 Districts
      2. 79 School sites

#### Administrative Funds

3. 1 FTE State Reading First Director
4. 1 FTE State Administrative Assistant to State Director
5. 4 FTE Regional Specialist
6. External Evaluator
7. Professional Development Activities for LEA's for School year 2009-2010
  - a. (1) 1-day Leadership Training for 100 participants (Principals, Reading Coaches)
  - b. (1) 1-day District Level Administrator Training for 60 participants (Title I, SPED, Bilingual, C & I Directors)
  - c. (1) 1-day Reading Plan Sustainability Training for 200 LEA participants (District Administrators, Principals, Reading Coaches, Reading Interventionist, Teachers)
  - d. (4) 1-day Reading Coaches Training for 53 Reading Coaches
  - e. (2) 4-day Cognitive Coaching Training for 50 participants (Reading Coaches)
  - f. (1) 1-day Advanced Coaches Training for 60 participants (Reading coaches)
  - g. (4) 1-day Reading Coaches Technical Assistance Team Training for 25 participants (Reading coaches)
  - h. (1) 3-day Oral Language Spanish Instruction on-site Support to LEA's
  - i. (1) 1-day State of State Data and External Evaluator Report to LEA's
  - j. Website maintenance for Professional Development. Networking and Collaboration.

The combination of the estimated \$3,615,432.39 from FFY07 and the carry-over FFY08 funds will enable New Mexico State Reading First Office to continue to implement Reading First projects for 30 LEA's and 79 School sites for school year 2009-2010. NM PED State Reading First Office will continue to monitor funded LEA's for program implementation and compliance in meeting established performance criteria as evidence by their data. Additionally, while these funds are sufficient to provide reduced-level sub grants to qualifying LEA's in FFY09 support of a Reading Coach, we have suggested that current LEA's and School sites use Title I Funds and other sources to sustain implementation of key components of the Reading First framework with fidelity.

Thank you for your consideration of this request of a Tydings Waiver for FFY2007.

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information at (505) 827-6673 or [jeannie.martinez@state.nm.us](mailto:jeannie.martinez@state.nm.us).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeannie Martinez".

Jeannie Martinez, M.A., L.E.D.  
New Mexico State Reading First Director  
Early Childhood Bureau