



Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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As part of our application for federal school improvement funds due April 15, 2015, the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to extend the available period for use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to September 30, 2020. These funds have just recently become available for use in school year 2015-2016 and would normally expire on September 30, 2016. By extending the period of availability, the OPI will be able to use these funds for a “persistently lowest achieving school” for up to five years. The exact wording of the waiver contained in the OPI application to USED for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 funds is as follows:

**Period of availability of FY 2014 SIG funds waiver**

Note: This waiver only applies to FY 2014 funds for the purpose of making five-year awards to eligible LEAs.

In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2016, waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. § 1225(b)) to extend the period of availability of FY 2014 school improvement funds for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2020.

If you would like to comment on this waiver request, you may submit your comment to [OPIWaivers@mt.gov](mailto:OPIWaivers@mt.gov) by 5:00 pm on April 14, 2015. Please indicate that your waiver is on “SIG funds” to distinguish it from comments on other waivers.