

There are two additional waivers we propose to submit to the USED related to the Department's School Improvement Grant application. Prior to submitting the application, we are required to seek input from affected districts as to the feasibility of implementing these waivers. The two waivers are:

- requesting permission for South Carolina to exclude, from the pool of schools from which it identifies the persistently lowest-achieving schools for Tier I and Tier II, any school in which the total number of students in the "all students" group in the grades assessed [who were enrolled in the school for a full academic year as that term is defined in South Carolina's Accountability Workbook] is less than 40.
- requesting a waiver of paragraph (a)(2) of the definition of "persistently lowest-achieving schools" to permit South Carolina to include, in the pool of secondary schools from which it determines those that are the persistently lowest-achieving schools in the State, secondary schools participating under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years or are in the State's lowest quintile of performance based on proficiency rates on the State's assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics combined

The first waiver would allow the state to exclude schools with fewer than 40 tested students for Tier I.

The second waiver would allow Title I secondary schools that were not included in the lowest 5% to be considered as Tier II schools. Preliminary data show this would add two schools to the Tier II list.

Please provide your feedback to me through return email at the address below by next Friday afternoon. The application will be submitted on Monday, February 22.

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