

May 30, 2007

Honorable June St. Clair Atkinson
Superintendent of Public Instruction
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Education Building
301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825

Dear Superintendent Atkinson:

I am writing to inform you that you may request, on behalf of one or more of your local educational agencies (LEAs), to renew your participation in the pilot program allowing LEAs to provide supplemental educational services (SES) under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), to students attending Title I schools in the first year of school improvement. This renewal would allow eligible LEAs in North Carolina to participate in the pilot for the 2007-08 school year.

To be eligible for renewed participation in 2007-08, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction must meet three sets of requirements. First, North Carolina must meet the following criteria, which are applicable to all States, both those new to the pilot and those renewing:

- **Timely notification of adequate yearly progress (AYP) results.** A State must have made AYP determinations, on which Title I schools in improvement were expected to act, before the start of the school year for years 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.
- **State SES evaluation in progress.** A State currently must have underway its evaluation of SES providers. More specifically, a State must have developed an evaluation of the extent to which its SES providers are contributing to student achievement and must have at least begun the process of collecting data for the evaluation.
- **State assessment system with “Full Approval,” “Full Approval with Recommendations,” or “Approval Expected.”** A State must have its assessment systems reviewed by the Department and rated in one of these top three categories.
- **Waiver conditions.** A State must provide assurances that it can meet the conditions for participation outlined in the pilot agreement, including that the State can meet the waiver requirements of ESEA, as specified in section 9401. A complete list of conditions for participation is included in the appendix.

Second, North Carolina must provide the U.S. Department of Education with a description of the SES participation for Burke County, Cumberland County, Durham County, Guilford County, Pitt County, and Robeson County during the 2006-07 school year, as well as an explanation of how North Carolina will work with participating LEAs to improve their SES participation rates and other aspects of implementation for the 2007-08 school year.

Third, North Carolina must identify and justify its proposed participating LEAs (and schools, if known) for the 2007-08 school year. North Carolina is limited to selecting a total of seven LEAs, of which at least two should be rural. Participating LEAs must have issued timely public choice and SES notification letters to parents over the past two years and should be located throughout the State. A State may propose to include an LEA in need of improvement. However, an LEA in need of improvement that participates in this pilot is not eligible to apply to become an SES provider itself.

In summary, approval of North Carolina's renewal is conditioned on the State's providing: (1) an explanation for how it currently meets or will meet the four criteria listed in the bullets above, (2) a description of the participation of Burke County, Cumberland County, Durham County, Guilford County, Pitt County, and Robeson County in SES in 2006-07 and of the ways in which North Carolina will work to strengthen participation of its selected LEAs in 2007-08, and (3) a description and justification of the LEAs proposed for participation.

Please submit your application for renewal electronically to SESPilot@ed.gov. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or concerns, or have your staff contact Stacy Kreppel at 202-401-5938. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Morgan S. Brown

Enclosure

cc: Lynn Warren, Title I Director