

May 30, 2007

Honorable Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Virginia Department of Education
101 North 14th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

Dear Superintendent Cannaday:

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 Virginia to participate in the pilot for the 2007-08 school year.

To be eligible for renewed participation in 2007-08, the Virginia Department of Education must meet three sets of requirements. First, Virginia 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, Virginia must provide the U.S. Department of Education with a description of the SES participation for Alexandria City Public Schools, Henry County Public Schools, Newport News City Public Schools, and Stafford County Public Schools during the

2006-07 school year, as well as an explanation of how Virginia will work with participating LEAs to improve their SES participation rates and other aspects of implementation for the 2007-08 school year.

Third, Virginia must identify and justify its proposed participating LEAs (and schools, if known) for the 2007-08 school year. Virginia 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 Virginia'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 Alexandria City Public Schools, Henry County Public Schools, Newport News City Public Schools, and Stafford County Public Schools in SES in 2006-07 and of the ways in which Virginia 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: Roberta Schlicher, Title I Director