



# Muscogee County School District

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## For Immediate Release

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## NEWS RELEASE

### MCS D Will Request Title 1 Waivers

**(Columbus, GA)** - The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) will be seeking several waivers on behalf of the Local Education Agency (LEA) (school systems) from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) regarding Title I, Part A requirements that are affected by the availability of Title I, Part A - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009/Stimulus Grant. The Muscogee County School District (MCS D) intends to seek policy waivers from the GaDOE regarding requirements for implementing the Title I, Part A – ARRA 2009/Stimulus Grant.

Information regarding the specific waivers to be requested by MCS D is provided below. Stakeholders who wish to comment on the waivers should send comments to the MCS D Title I Director, Harriet Steed by e-mail [hsteed@mcsdga.net](mailto:hsteed@mcsdga.net) or fax (706) 748-2101 no later than August 7, 2009.

### Waivers MCS D Will Request

Waiver 1 - An LEA's obligation to spend an amount equal to at least 20 percent of its FY 2009 Title I, Part A allocation on transportation for public school choice and on Supplemental Educational Services (SES):

- The amount currently set aside in the Title I ARRA budget for SES is \$1,518,530, and the amount for public school choice transportation is \$506,177.
- There are currently sufficient funds in the FY 2010 Regular Title I, Part A Grant to cover the cost of SES and public school choice.

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Waiver 2 - The responsibility of an LEA to calculate the per-pupil amount for SES based on its FY 2009 Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 allocation

Waiver 3 - The responsibility of a school in needs improvement to spend 10 percent of its Title I, Part A funds on professional development

- Title I schools that are in needs improvement have budgeted more than 10% of their FY 2010 Regular Title I, Part A Grant for professional development.
- Each Title I needs improvement school has at least one instructional coach budgeted in its FY 2010 Regular Title I, Part A Grant. These coaches provide job-embedded on-site professional development.

Waiver 4 - The responsibility of an LEA (school system) in needs improvement to spend 10 percent of its FY 2009 Title I, Part A, allocation on professional development:

- The MCSD Title I Part A-ARRA budget includes a set aside amount of \$835,711 for professional development.
- The budget for the MCSD FY 2010 Regular Title I, Part A Grant includes a set aside amount of \$844,390 for professional development.
- At the system level, there are four Title I instructional specialists who support professional development for Title I schools.
- The amount of \$844,390 is sufficient to cover the costs related to professional development.

Waiver 5 - The prohibition on an SEA's ability to grant to its LEAs waivers of the carryover limitation more than once every three years:

### **Savings**

- Approval of these waivers for MCSD will allow approximately \$2.8 million in additional funds to be used to directly impact student learning.
- Areas where these savings will be used in Title I schools include salaries for additional teachers, after school tutoring, instructional technology, individual electronic student response devices, graphing calculators, scientific computer assisted instruction software/on-line subscriptions, science lab equipment, instructional materials and supplies, learning kits, math manipulatives, and parenting materials and supplies.

For more information, e-mail [communications@mcsdga.net](mailto:communications@mcsdga.net) .