

Pursuant to section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), the Florida Department of Education (Department) is requesting a waiver for the period of availability of funds in section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) to ensure local educational agencies (LEAs) have adequate opportunity to fully address student needs and to provide further support to schools identified for targeted support under ESEA section 1111(d)(2).

Specifically, the Department is requesting a 12-month extension of the period of availability for the federal fiscal year (FY) 2021-funds (i.e., funds for which the current period of availability ends on September 30, 2023) for the following programs:

Title I, Part A of the ESEA (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs), including the portions of the state education agencies (SEAs) Title I, Part A award used to carry out section 1003 school improvement.

If granted, the waiver will provide the Department with continued flexibility to spend down vital federal funds that will assist LEAs in addressing the needs of our most vulnerable students.

We appreciate any feedback regarding Florida's waiver request for an extension of the period of availability of funds pursuant to section 421(b) of GEPA.

The Department is also requesting a waiver of the carryover limitation in section 1127(b) of the ESEA for FY 2022 Title I, Part A funds (i.e., the Title I, Part A funds that will become carryover funds on October 1, 2023), to waive the requirement that limits an SEA's ability to grant to its LEAs a waiver of the 15 percent Title I, Part A carryover limitation in ESEA section 1127(a) to once every three years.

If granted, the waiver will provide the Department with the authority to grant an LEA a waiver of the 15 percent Title I, Part A carryover limitation with respect to FY 2022, Title I, Part A funds, even if the LEA received a waiver of ESEA section 1127(a) for its FY 2020 or FY 2021 Title I, Part A funds.

Comments must be submitted to the Bureau of School Improvement at BSI@fldoe.org no later than August 25, 2023.