

From: Robinson, Gerard
Sent time: Thursday, September 22, 2011 6:11:35 PM
To: patricia@excelined.org; Benjamin, Nyla
Subject: Re: PLEASE READ

I support

From: Benjamin, Nyla
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2011 05:44 PM
To: Robinson, Gerard
Subject: PLEASE READ

See email below. I included the wording of the draft below for your review.

From: Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org) [mailto:patricia@excelined.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2011 5:07 PM
To: Barresi, Janet; Barresi, Janet Asst Becky Woodie; Barresi, Janet Comm Dir Damon Gardenhire; Barresi, Janet COS Jennifer Carter; Bennett, Tony; Bennett, Tony Asst Debbie Downing; Bennett, Tony Asst Jennifer Outlaw; Bennett, Tony COS Heather Neal; Bowen, Stephen; Bowen, Stephen; Bowen, Stephen Schedule Sandra Moreau; Cerf, Chris; Cerf, Chris Asst Helene Leona; Cerf, Chris Dep Comm Sp Asst Mamie Doyle; Cerf, Chris Special Asst Andrew Smarick; Gist, Deborah; Huffman, Kevin; Huffman, Kevin COS Emily Barton; Pastorek, Paul; Pastorek, Paul Asst Christina Rose; Robinson, Gerard; Benjamin, Nyla; Skandera, Hanna; Skandera, Hanna COS Cathie Carothers; Skandera, Hanna Policy Leighann Lenti; Skandera, Hanna Scheduler Bernadette Tennyson; Smith, Eric
Cc: Neal Urwitz (Neal.Urwitz@Dutkograyling.com); David DeSchryver (david.deschryver@dutkograyling.com); Christy Hovanetz (christyh@excelined.org); Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org); Erin Price (Erin@excelined.org); Fonda Anderson (fonda@excelined.org); Jaryn Emhof (jaryn@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); John Bailey (john.bailey@dutkoworldwide.com); Mandy Clark (mandy@excelined.org); Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org); Matt Ladner (ladner55@gmail.com); Matthew Ladner (Matthew@Excelined.org); Paula Noor (Pnoor@excelined.org)
Subject: Chiefs for Change draft statement on waiver guidance

Chiefs,

Please see the attached revised statement on the waiver guidance to be released tomorrow.

We were not able to see a draft copy of the waiver guidance, so the statement is based upon verbal briefings and information to the best of our knowledge. The White House and Secretary Duncan's office would appreciate a statement in support by Chiefs for Change tomorrow after the announcement rather than you waiting until next week after you receive full copies of the guidance.

Please let us know if you have any edits or changes. We would like to send out tomorrow morning shortly after the President makes his announcement.

Thank you,

Patricia

p.s. Jaryn will be sending to your comm directors also.

Statement by Education Chiefs on Administration's Waivers Guidance

Today, the members of Chiefs for Change, including Janet C. Barresi, the Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Tony Bennett, the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction; Stephen Bowen, the Maine Commissioner of Education; Chris Cerf, the New Jersey Commissioner of Education; Deborah Gist, the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education; Kevin Huffman, the Tennessee Commissioner of Education; Paul Pastorek, the former Louisiana State Superintendent of Education; Gerard Robinson, the Florida Commissioner of Education; Hanna Skandera, the New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary-Designate; and Eric Smith, the former Florida Commissioner of Education, released the following statement on the Obama Administration's new guidance on No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waivers:

"Chiefs for Change believes today's difficult economy and the jobs of tomorrow demand visionary education reform that places students first. The Administration's policy of targeted waivers from NCLB provisions in exchange for real reform is a step forward, and Chiefs for Change supports the Administration's efforts."

"We applaud both the flexibility waivers will grant states and districts and the reforms the Administration's waiver policy will reward. We appreciate the Administration's flexibility for data collection, rewarding progress, and supporting teacher effectiveness policies. Waivers like the ones the Administration laid out today – which do not weaken the rigor or accountability in No Child Left Behind – will help states improve student achievement."

"We support the swift reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). We have outlined principles to guide Congress as it works to improve the law, and believe ESEA reauthorization is the best option for America's students. We do not believe that waivers are a replacement for Congressional reauthorization, but a chance to prove out policies and help inform reauthorization. State and education leaders should rise to the challenge targeted waivers present and seize the moment to improve education in America."

Visit www.chiefsforchange.org for more information about Chiefs for Change.

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