



## Department of Public Instruction

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Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead  
State Superintendent

**To:** Title I Authorized Representatives  
**From:** Laurie Matzke, State Title I Director  
**Re:** North Dakota 2010 School Improvement Grant (SIG) Application  
**Date:** December 1, 2010

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On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama. Record setting funding was appropriated for schools to implement innovative practices through various grant opportunities, including the School Improvement Grant (SIG.)

The SIG requires states to identify low performing schools. These schools are then categorized in Tiers I, II, and III. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction must include the schools identified in these three tiers in their grant applications for these funds.

States are required to identify schools in categories of Tiers I, II, and III that would be eligible for the SIG funds. Schools in Tiers I and II who apply for these school improvement funds are required to implement one of the four models in their schools. Schools in Tier III who apply for these school improvement funds do not have to implement one of the four models.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction submitted an application to the USDE on February 22, 2010 to apply for 2009 SIG funding. We are now preparing our 2010 application. As part of our application, we are applying for three waivers that will provide North Dakota schools with an approved SIG application with greater flexibility in implementing their plan.

The USDE requires states to provide all districts in the state with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment on our waiver requests. We are providing statewide notice by sending an email over the Title I administrative distribution list, posting the waiver application on the Department of Public Instruction's website, and disseminating information in our monthly newsletter.

To review a copy of our state 2010 SIG application which includes our three waiver requests, log on to [www.dpi.state.nd.us/news/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/news/index.shtm) on the department's website.

If anyone would like to comment on the waiver requests, please send written comments to me at [lmatzke@nd.gov](mailto:lmatzke@nd.gov) by December 7, 2010.