

Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

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September 16, 2014

Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Prince George's County Public Schools  
14201 School Lane  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Dr. Maxwell:

The United States Department of Education recently granted Maryland's three year request for a waiver of section 1113(a)(3)-(4) and (c)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requested the waiver in order to allow a Local Educational Agency (LEA) to serve with Title I funds a Title I-eligible Tier II middle or high school that currently receives School Improvement Grant funds and that Maryland identified as a priority school under its approved ESEA flexibility request, even if that school does not rank sufficiently high in the rank order of poverty to be served.

This out of rank order waiver is granted for the timeframe of three school years (SY 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017). It extends for three additional years the previous waiver granted to Maryland through ESEA flexibility that allows LEAs in Maryland to serve with Title I funds a Title I-eligible high school with a graduation rate below 60 percent that the State education agency has identified as a priority school even if that school does not rank sufficiently high to be served.

The United States Department of Education granted the waiver to Maryland with the following conditions:

- If the ESEA is reauthorized, MSDE will no longer be eligible for this waiver and must meet the requirements of section 1113(a)(3)-(4) and (c)(1) of the ESEA.
- If MSDE does not receive an extension of its approved ESEA flexibility request, MSDE will no longer be eligible for this waiver and must meet the requirements of section 1113(a)(3)-(4) and (c)(1) of the ESEA.

Prince George's County Public Schools submitted a letter dated August 21, 2014 to the Maryland State Department of Education requesting this waiver for the following three Title I-eligible Tier II middle schools:

- Oxon Hill Middle School
- Thomas Johnson Middle School
- Thurgood Marshall Middle School

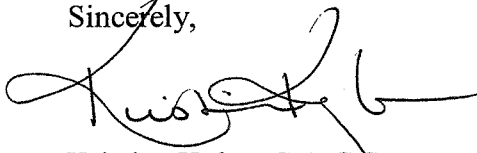


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MSDE grants approval of the waiver to Prince George's County Public Schools to serve these priority schools as Title I schools out of rank order for 2014-2017 school years as long as the USDE required conditions identified above are applicable. These schools must carry out all activities in accordance with the Title I, Part A program requirements.

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Maria E. Lamb, Director, Program Improvement and Family Support Branch, at (410) 767-0286 or email [maria.lamb@maryland.gov](mailto:maria.lamb@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Kristina Kyles, C.A.G.S.  
Assistant State Superintendent  
Division of Student, Family, and School Support

KK/MEL

c: Kevin Maxwell  
Monique Davis  
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