Notice of Intent to Submit Waiver Regarding Teacher Evaluation in SIG Schools

The Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) is requesting a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The waiver permits the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to allow, in accordance with criteria KSDE develops, the districts implementing a transformation model with school improvement grant (SIG) funds to take additional time to meet the principal and teacher evaluation requirements in Section I.A.2(d)(1)(i)(B) of the School Improvement Grant final requirements. The waiver would apply only to evaluation systems for schools that began implementing the transformation model during the 2010-2011 or 2011-2012 year. The districts with schools implementing the transformation model are in USD 247 Cherokee, USD 259 Wichita, USD 480 Liberal, USD 500 Kansas City and USD 501 Topeka. Upon approval of the waiver from the ED, the KSDE will work with these school districts regarding the timeline extension.

The Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) is soliciting comments—both supporting and non-supporting—on the waiver. All comments submitted during the comment period will be read and taken into consideration. Providing comments to the KSDE does not guarantee all comments will be implemented.

This notice meets the notification requirements under Section 9401(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. **Districts are invited to submit written comments to the KSDE no later than 5:00 PM (CDT) on September 9, 2011.** The Kansas State Department of Education will submit any district and public comments as part of the waiver to the ED. Submit written comments to Judi Miller at jmiller@ksde.org or via fax at 785-296-5867.