



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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January 15, 2009

Dr. Zollie Stevenson, Jr.
Director
Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-6132

Dear Dr. Stevenson:

I am pleased to submit an amendment request from the Virginia Department of Education for the application for Fiscal Year 2008 School Improvement Funds under Section 1003(g) of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. As required in the original Request for Proposals (RFP), input was sought from the state's No Child Left Behind Committee of Practitioners through a meeting held on January 15, 2009.

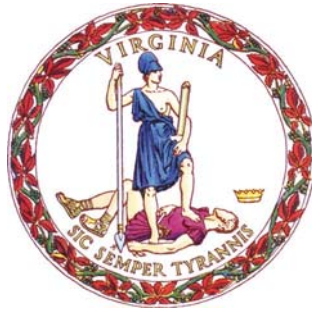
If you have questions or require additional information relative to this transmittal, please contact Roberta Schlicher, director of program administration and accountability, at (804) 225-2870 or Roberta.Schlicher@doe.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia I. Wright".

Patricia I. Wright

PIW/RS
Enclosure



**Amended Request for United States Department of Education (USED)
School Improvement Fund
Fiscal Year 2008
Section 1003(g)
CFDA #84.377A**

Submitted by:

**Virginia Department of Education
James Monroe Building
101 North 14th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219**

Contact Person:

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Purpose of School Improvement Funds 1003(g)

Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Assistance for Local School Improvement, authorizes funds to help states and local educational agencies address the needs of schools in improvement, corrective action, and restructuring to improve student achievement. Expected results from the use of these funds include improved student achievement, an increase in the number of schools that exit Title I School Improvement, and the use of data to inform decisions and create a sustainable system of reform. This amended application does not change the purpose of the use of the 1003(g) funds.

Requested Amendments

The Virginia Department of Education is requesting the following two amendments for Fiscal Year (FY) 1003(g) funds. The first request is to expand the eligibility requirement for eligible schools from only those schools in Title I School Improvement that are considered “holding”* to also include those Title I Schools in Improvement in Year 1 and Year 2. The second request is to require schools receiving the funds to provide a coach who will work with the school on the area(s) that caused it to enter School Improvement as one of their selected strategies for improvement. The coach must be selected from a pool of coaches who have completed training through a Department-sponsored training institute.

Amended Eligibility

The Virginia Department of Education has been awarded School Improvement Funds under Section 1003(g) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. Five (5) percent of the funds will be reserved for state level activities as was done in the original application. Ninety-five (95) percent of the funds will be awarded to schools that meet the following criteria:

- Are considered “Holding”* as they met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in mathematics and/or reading for the 2007-2008 school year; and/or
- Are in Year 1 or Year 2 of Title I School Improvement.

The application has been amended to expand the group of schools receiving funds. The original application provided funds for Title I schools that were considered “holding.”* Additionally, within the schools that were designated as “holding,”* two levels of priority were established. Under the first priority, funds were awarded to eligible schools that met the AYP targets by invoking the safe harbor provision. Under the second priority, funds were awarded to eligible schools that met the AYP targets without invoking the safe harbor provision. The amended application removes the levels of priority.

*“Holding” describes schools in Title I School Improvement that have met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in reading/language arts and/or mathematics for one of the two required consecutive years needed to exit Title I School Improvement.

Amended Requirements for Strategies for Improvement

The original application required eligible schools to submit an application for funds. The requested amendments for the 1003(g) funds will continue to require eligible schools to submit an application for review and approval by Virginia Department of Education staff. Schools that have previously received funds under 1003(g) will submit an amended application as opposed to an original application. The application must indicate that one of the strategies used will be the employment of a coach who will work with the school on the area(s) that caused it to enter School Improvement. To satisfy the United States Department of Education (USED) requirement to select a strategy from the list of required strategies, school divisions must select strategy C below as the strategy selected for use of the coach. The application may also include additional strategies from the list below. Finally, the application must provide the data to support the choice(s) and show how the strategy or strategies chosen integrate with the existing school improvement plan.

- A. Provide customized technical assistance and/or professional development that is designed to build the capacity of the local educational agency (LEA) and school staff to improve schools and is informed by student achievement and other outcome-related measures.
- B. Provide professional development to enhance the capacity of school support team members and other technical assistance providers who are part of the statewide system of support and that is informed by student achievement and other outcome-related measures.
- C. Implement other strategies determined by the state or local educational agency, as appropriate, for which data indicate the strategy is likely to result in improved teaching and learning in schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.

Rationale for Requested Amendments

Virginia has a total of 63 schools in Year 1 and Year 2 of Title I School Improvement for the 2008-2009 school year. This number represents an increase of 18 schools from the 2007-2008 school year. Expanding the use of the 1003(g) funds to include this group of schools at the initial stages of Title I School Improvement will allow schools to focus funds on the area(s) that caused them to enter school improvement accelerating their ability to exit Title I School Improvement.

Of the 19 “holding”* schools that were awarded Fiscal Year 2007 1003(g) school improvement funds, 47 percent (9 schools) exited Title I School Improvement. One strategy used by the majority of these schools to exit Title I School Improvement was a coaching model. See chart in Appendix A for a detailed description of the status of the schools. The Department has additional documented evidence of success with the coaching model as evidenced by over 10 years of use of the coaching model with low performing schools that were not meeting state accreditation standards.

Implementation of the coaching model with low performing schools has resulted in 95 percent of the schools in the Commonwealth being fully accredited for the 2008-2009 school year. The link below to the state report card provides the documentation of the percentage of schools that are fully accredited under state standards:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/src/accreditation.shtml>

Measures of Effectiveness

Virginia will continue to assess the effectiveness of School Improvement activities implemented with these funds by determining the:

- Increase in number and percentage of students who score proficient in reading/language arts and mathematics on the spring 2009 Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments in the schools that receive School Improvement funds; and/or
- Number of schools receiving School Improvement funds that exit school improvement and/or make the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in reading/language arts or mathematics for the 2008-2009 school year.

Local Application Provisions

As stated above, the original application required eligible schools to submit an application for funds. The amendment application for the 1003(g) funds will continue to require eligible schools to submit an application for review and approval by Virginia Department of Education staff. Schools that have previously received funds under 1003(g) will submit an amended application as opposed to an original application. The application must indicate that one of the strategies used will be the employment of a coach who will work with the school on the area(s) that caused them to enter school improvement. See Attachment B for an example of the instructions for the application to accommodate the requested amendments.

Schools Receiving Fiscal Year (FY) 08 School Improvement Funds Under Section 1003(g)

The chart below provides the detailed information regarding the allocations of the FY 2008 grant award.

Schools Receiving FY 08 School Improvement Funds under Section 1003(g)			
Total Award:		\$8,059,192.00	
Less 5 percent State Set-aside:		\$402,959.30	
Funds Remaining to Award to LEAs:		\$7,656,232.70	
School Division	School	2008-2009 Status	Award
Albemarle County	Greer Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Alexandria City	Mount Vernon Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Patrick Henry Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Cora Kelly Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
	Jefferson-Houston Elementary School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
Amherst County	Central Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Arlington County	Carling Springs Elementary School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
	Barcroft Elementary School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
	Drew Model Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Bedford County	Bedford Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Bedford Primary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Town of Colonial Beach	Colonial Beach Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Craig County	McCleary Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Culpeper County	Sycamore Park Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Pearl Sample Elementary School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
Dickenson County	Ervinton Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Fairfax County	Washington Mill Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Hollin Meadows Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Riverside Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
	Hybla Valley Elementary School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
	Dogwood Elementary School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
Fauquier County	Miller Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Brumfield Elementary School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
Fluvanna County	Columbia District Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Central Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Cunningham District Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Franklin City	King Middle School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90

School Division	School	2008-2009 Status	Award
Fredericksburg City	Mercer Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
	Lafayette Upper Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Hampton City	Smith Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Lee Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Henrico County	Lakeside Elementary School	Year 1-Holding	\$104,879.90
	New Bridge School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
King & Queen County	King & Queen Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
King George County	King George Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Potomac Elementary School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
Lancaster County	Lancaster Primary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Louisa County	Trevillians Elementary School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
Lunenburg County	Victoria Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Montgomery County	Shawsville Elementary School	Year 2- Holding	\$104,879.90
Newport News City	Sedgefield Elementary School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
Northampton County	Occohannock Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Kiptopeke Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Orange County	Lightfoot Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Barbour Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Unionville Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Petersburg City	A.P. Hill Elementary School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
Pittsylvania County	Kentuck Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Gretna Middle School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
	Dan River Middle	Year 2	\$104,879.90
Portsmouth City	Brighton Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Churchland Academy Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Prince Edward County	Prince Edward Middle School	Year 4- Holding	\$104,879.90
Prince William County	Belmont Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Pulaski County	Pulaski Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Dublin Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Richmond City	Blackwell Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Richmond Alternative School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
	Brown Middle School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
	Elkhardt Middle School	Year 5- Holding	\$104,879.90

School Division	School	2008-2009 Status	Award
Roanoke City	Addison Aerospace Magnet Middle School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Huff Lane Intermediate School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Round Hill Montesorri Primary	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Rockbridge County	Fairfield Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Shenandoah County	Ashby Lee Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Stafford County	Falmouth Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Barrett Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
	Rocky Run Elementary School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
Suffolk City	Elephant's Fork Elementary School	Year 2	\$104,879.90
Sussex County	Jackson Elementary School	Year 3- Holding	\$104,879.90
Warren County	Warren County Middle School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Westmoreland County	Washington District Elementary School	Year 1	\$104,879.90
Williamsburg-James City County	Montague Elementary School	Year 1- Holding	\$104,879.90
Total:			\$7,656,232.70

School Improvement Status of Virginia Schools Awarded FY 07 1003(g) Funds			
School Division	School	2007-2008 School Improvement Status	2008-2009 School Improvement Status
Hampton City	Aberdeen Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Exited
Hampton City	Jane H. Bryan Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Exited
Hampton City	Cesar Tarrant Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Exited
Henry County	Axton Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Exited
Henry County	Mount Olivet Elementary School	Year 1 Holding	Exited
Lunenburg County	Kenbridge Elementary School	Year 1 Holding	Exited
Pittsylvania County	Southside Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Exited
Roanoke City	Garden City Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Exited
Wythe County	Jackson Memorial Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Exited
King George County	King George Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Year 1
Roanoke City	Addison Aerospace Magnet Middle School	Year 2 Holding	Year 1
Culpeper County	Pearl Sample Elementary School	Year 1 Holding	Year 2
Henrico County	Mount Vernon Middle School	Year 1 Holding	Year 2
Newport News City	Sedgefield Elementary School	Year 1 Holding	Year 2
Suffolk City	Elephant's Fork Elementary School	Year 1 Holding	Year 2
Charles City County	Charles City County Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Year 3
Newport News City	L.F. Palmer Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Year 3
Orange County	Orange Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Year 3
Roanoke City	Hurt Park Elementary School	Year 2 Holding	Year 3

**Virginia Department of Education
Local Educational Agency (LEA)
Instructions for Application for School Improvement Funds
Fiscal Year 2008
Section 1003(g)**

I. Purpose of School Improvement Funds 1003(g)

Section 1003(g) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Assistance for Local School Improvement, authorizes funds to help states and local educational agencies address the needs of schools in improvement, corrective action, and restructuring to improve student achievement. Expected results from the use of these funds include improved student academic achievement, an increase in the number of schools that exit Title I School Improvement, and use of data to inform decisions and create a sustainable system of reform.

II. Eligibility

The Virginia Department of Education has been awarded School Improvement Funds under Section 1003(g) for FY 2008. Ninety-five percent of these funds will be awarded to schools that meet all of the following criteria:

- Are considered “Holding”* as they met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in mathematics and/or reading for the 2007-2008 school year; and/or
- Are in Year 1 or Year 2 of Title I School Improvement.

*“Holding” describes schools in Title I School Improvement that have met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in reading/language arts and/or mathematics for one of the two required consecutive years needed to exit Title I School Improvement.

IV. Measures of Effectiveness

Virginia will assess the effectiveness of school improvement activities implemented with these funds by determining the:

- Increase in number and percentage of students who score proficient in reading/language arts and mathematics on the spring 2009 Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments in the schools that receive School Improvement funds; and/or
- Number of schools receiving School Improvement funds that exit school improvement and/or make the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target in reading/language arts or mathematics for the 2008-2009 school year.

Application Requirements

To be awarded School Improvement 1003(g) funds, schools must implement the required coaching strategy and may implement another school improvement strategy as described under Section III below. The School Improvement strategy or strategies must be selected based on relevant data. The school division is also required to revise the annual measurable objectives in their school improvement plans required under Section 1116(b)(3)(v) to reflect the strategy or strategies selected.

I. Cover Sheet

The application must contain a cover sheet that includes the name, address, and contact information for the school division and person submitting the application. Additionally, the cover sheet should contain the signature of the authorizing representative for the school division.

II. Current Strategies

Describe current strategies from your school improvement plan that have resulted in improved student achievement. In your description, include data that demonstrate how the student performance in reading language arts and/or mathematics increased as a result of implementation of these strategies.

III. Strategies for 1003(g) funds

The application must indicate that one of the strategies used will be the employment of a coach who will work with the school on the area(s) that caused it to enter School Improvement. To satisfy the United States Department of Education (USED) requirement to select a strategy from the list of required strategies, school divisions must select strategy C below as the strategy selected for use of the coach. The application may also include additional strategies from the list below. Finally, the application must provide the data to support the choice and show how the strategy or strategies chosen integrate with the existing School Improvement plan. Additionally, the application must include a description of how the School Improvement strategies selected will contribute to achieving the goals necessary to exit Title I School Improvement. The connection of the impact of the selected strategy to achievement outcomes must be addressed. The amended school improvement plan must be attached to this application with the changes highlighted in bold italics.

- A. Provide customized technical assistance and/or professional development that is designed to build the capacity of the local educational agency (LEA) and school staff to improve schools and is informed by student achievement and other outcome-related measures.
- B. Provide professional development to enhance the capacity of school support team members and other technical assistance providers who are part of the statewide system of support and that is informed by student achievement and other outcome-related measures.
- C. Implement other strategies determined by the state or local educational agency, as appropriate, for which data indicate the strategy is likely to result in improved teaching and learning in schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.

IV. Integration of Funds/Revision School Improvement Budget

The application must include a revised copy of the existing School Improvement budget that describes how the 1003(g) funds will be incorporated with the 1003(a) funds. The school division should also include how it has used other funds awarded to the school division under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to support School Improvement efforts.

V. Submission Requirements

Applications may be submitted electronically or by paper submission on or before (date to be determined).

Electronic submissions must be sent to: School.Improvement.Application@doe.virginia.gov

Paper submissions should be sent to:

Virginia Department of Education
Attention: Ann Sheehan, Title I Specialist
Office of Program Administration and Accountability
101 North 14th Street, 23rd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219