



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE  
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY  
Commissioner

May 8, 2009

Dr. Joseph Conaty, Director  
Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs  
United States Department of Education  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-6200

Dear Dr. Conaty:

New Jersey is requesting a Waiver of the Tydings period (e.g., no cost extension) for the New Jersey Reading First initiative for FFY 07. Currently, we have approximately \$1.1 million of unallocated funds that we must encumber by September 30, 2009. These unallocated funds are due to the following: 1.) Receipt of \$841,320 as a supplemental award on September 18, 2008; 2.) NJDOE's decision to downsize the Office of Reading First by not replacing the project manager and regional coordinators due to the impending conclusion of Reading First funding; and 3.) the delivery of professional development and technical assistance provided by National Reading Technical Assistance Center (NRTAC) on the topic of sustainability that otherwise might have been provided by outside sources at a cost to our grant.

New Jersey has been operating its Reading First grant in Tydings. As a result, most of our FFY 08 funds will be carried forward into FFY 09 effective July 1, 2009. Approximately \$5.6 million of our FFY 08 Reading First funds will be directly allocated to participating Reading First LEAs to allow for an extended period of implementation during the 2009-2010 academic year. Approximately \$1.4 million of our FFY 08 Reading First funds for administration, professional development and technical assistance will be carried forward and will allow us to provide *limited* professional development and technical assistance to the current Reading First schools and districts through September 2010. As a result of FFY 08 Reading First funds being reduced by approximately 61%, although these funds will support our payroll, they are not extensive enough to fully support professional development activities at the state, regional and district level for the 2009-2010 academic year.

[www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education)

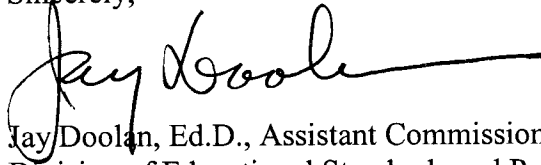
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If our Tydings Waiver request is approved, we intend to use the remaining \$1.1 million of our FFY 07 grant for the following purposes:

- 1.) Continue to provide high quality professional development for K-3 general education, Bilingual/ESL and Special Education teachers at the state, regional and district level for participating Reading First districts and schools.
- 2.) Continue to provide high quality professional development for district administrators at the state, regional and district level for participating Reading First districts and schools.
- 3.) Continue to provide high quality professional development for district literacy coaches, Special Education Literacy Coaches (SELRCs), reading specialists, intervention specialists, and tutors at the state, regional and district level for participating Reading First districts and schools.
- 4.) Continue to provide high quality professional development and on-going technical assistance for district Reading First Coordinators and School Literacy Team (SLT) members at the state, regional and district level for participating Reading First districts and schools.
- 5.) Continue to include non-Reading First districts in professional development activities. Invitation to partake of the professional development activities provided to participating LEAs funded by the Reading First initiative is extended to districts and schools implementing the New Jersey Intensive Early Literacy framework. Carryover funds will allow us to continue to include non-Reading First districts and schools in our professional development activities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this Tydings Waiver request.

Sincerely,



Jay Doolan, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Standards and Programs

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c: Willa Spicer  
Mary Jane Kurabinski  
Mary Ann Capetola