



Request for Tydings Waiver for Federal Fiscal Year 2020 of the Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant Program

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is requesting a Tydings waiver for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020 of the Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (SSAE) program, which is a program authorized under section 4201 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). If the waiver is approved, FFY 2020 funding for the grant program will be extended through September 30, 2023.

Maryland is requesting the waiver in light of the unexpected adjustments in the educational environment from face-to-face to virtual and hybrid instruction that local education agencies (LEAs) experienced as a result of COVID-19 pandemic-related school closures. The shift in the programming and the instructional environment led to a reduction in planned budget expenditures.

Approval of the waiver to extend the grant period for FFY 2020 funds would allow MSDE to expand the length of time LEAs would be able to obligate funds and finish implementing programs aligned and previously approved for the SSAE program.

If the waiver request is granted, MSDE will ensure that the fidelity of the SSAE programs continues and that the targeted students meet success in achieving the established goals. MSDE will monitor and support programs from start to finish to ensure successful implementation.

As required under ESSA section 8401(b)(3)(A), prior to submitting a waiver request for any program authorized under ESSA, the State must provide the public and LEAs with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on a proposed waiver request. This communication serves as notice of MSDE's intent to submit a Tydings waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for FFY 2020 of the SSAE grant program, and as an invitation for LEA superintendents to provide feedback on the proposed waiver request. Please submit comments on behalf of your LEA by September 16, 2022, via email to Jonathan Turner, Lead Specialist, Student Support and Academic Enrichment; Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, at jonathan.turner@maryland.gov. Copies of all comments received from LEA superintendents will be included as part of the waiver request submission to USDE.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed waiver request, please contact Mary L. Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, by email at mary.gable@maryland.gov or by telephone at 410-767-0472.