

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
November 8, 2011

SUBJECT:

Anticipated Changes in NCLB (No Child Left Behind)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The U.S. Department of Education is inviting each State educational agency (SEA) to request flexibility on behalf of itself, its local educational agencies, and schools, in order to better focus on improving student learning and increasing the quality of instruction. This voluntary opportunity will provide educators and State and local leaders with flexibility regarding specific requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive State-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

Both the U. S. House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate have bills in committee to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Each of the bills contains similar language to the waiver proposal from the Department of Education.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The S. C. Department of Education plans to submit a waiver request to the U. S. Department of Education in February 2012. It is expected that the waiver request will include flexibility from the sanctions imposed by NCLB. Additionally, any reauthorization bill passed this session is likely to eliminate or redirect NCLB sanctions.

Aiken County Public School District currently uses ten percent of its Title I allocation for district-wide professional development as part of district improvement. It uses the majority of its school improvement allocation for professional development salaries and benefits. With the anticipated changes in regulations these funds will no longer be available for these purposes.

Title II received a significant reduction in the Department of Education's fiscal year 2012 budget. That translated to a \$289,683 cut for Aiken County. Funds are currently used for class size reduction and professional development salaries and benefits. With level funding for Fiscal year 2013, funds will not be sufficient to continue funding all of these positions.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive as information

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