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June 26, 2009

Joseph C. Conaty,
Director, Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

RE: Waiver of Tydings

Dear Joe,

South Dakota Reading First would like to request a waiver of the Tydings Amendment to extend the period of availability of FY07 Reading First funds for one year. We are requesting a one year carry-over of \$501,431.00 in flow through money to the districts/schools.

The reason for this request is that South Dakota Reading First would like to continue to sustain the system in the schools currently eligible for funding. If we are allowed to carry-over these funds we can continue to fund those schools currently in Reading First at the 65% level for those in year 6; at the 85% level for those in year 4; and at the 100% level for those schools in year 2. The funds would be used by the districts/schools to fund reading coaches, professional development for those working with reading instruction K-3 and for those in year 2 materials as well in this last year of Reading First for South Dakota. Professional development that could continue within the schools includes but is not limited to:

- Instruction in the Big 5 for new staff
- Differentiated instruction
- Training in interventions and the 3-Tier model
- Grade level team meetings

Thank you for considering this request and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at michelle.mehlberg@state.sd.us or via phone at 605-280-3614.

Respectfully,

Michelle Mehlberg
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