

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 22, 2016

The Honorable John King  
US Secretary of Education  
The United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary King,

We are writing to request the U.S. Department of Education (ED) allow the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to grant waivers under Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act to every school impacted by IDOE's flawed fiscal year 2016 Title I allocations.

As you know, Title I supports our Nation's most disadvantaged kids, and Hoosier schools will receive \$256 million in Title I money in Academic Year 2016-2017. In correspondence from February, your department stated, "the State was making several errors in the process, including but not limited to, how IDOE was applying the hold harmless to charter school LEAs." We appreciate ED providing the IDOE guidance on correcting the inappropriately allocated funds and ensuring these disbursements are in accordance with the law. However, ED concluded that the method used by IDOE was "inconsistent with statute and regulation" in September 2015.

Schools and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) negatively impacted by the Title I misallocations were not notified of the availability of additional funds until March 2016. Unfortunately, this is functionally too late for schools to use the funds for their intended and best use. If schools are not allowed to carry over these funds, student learning will suffer.

The most disadvantaged public school students should not be penalized because the Indiana Department of Education made errors in the Title I allocation process. We urge you to support the educational needs of the most vulnerable Hoosier students by providing IDOE the flexibility to grant carryover waivers to affected schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Luke Messer

Member of Congress



Todd Rokita

Member of Congress

CC:

Superintendent Glenda Ritz