

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

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On behalf of Children Now, we urge the U.S. Department of Education to approve the ESEA flexibility waiver submitted by the districts participating in the California Office to Reform Education (CORE).

Children Now greatly appreciates the Administration's leadership on education, including the accompanying efforts to provide states with this opportunity for flexibility under ESEA. We wholeheartedly support the guidelines you have established for that purpose and by which state and district waivers are being considered.

The CORE waiver will provide participating California districts with the relief they need from the ESEA sanctions, but even more important is the commitment that these districts are making toward the implementation of Common Core, improvements in teacher evaluation and support, and the overall systemic change needed to truly improve instruction and learning for all children.

We are confident that the CORE waiver application, and the commitment of representative districts, adheres to the principles established by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, we urge you to approve the California CORE Waiver application and work to ensure that the implementation maintains that strong commitment.

Sincerely,



Brad Lee Strong, Senior Director
Children Now