



## GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 28, 2018

Frank Brogan  
Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Brogan,

On behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDE), I would like to thank you and your staff for the assistance you have already provided to the victims of Hurricanes Irma and Maria and the willingness the U.S. Department of Education (ED or the Department) has displayed to work with PRDE as we continue working to restore operations to normal and rebuild in the aftermath of the hurricanes' devastation. At this time, PRDE would like to formally request additional fiscal flexibility for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 under the Title I, Part D of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.

Consistent with section 1127(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), PRDE is requesting that the period of availability for the FFY 2017 Title I funds be extended an additional year, until September 30, 2020, in order to carry 15% of our FY17 Title I, Part A award. The FY 2017 funds became available on July 1, 2017 and are available to obligate through September 30, 2019. PRDE intends to use those funds to support school year 2017-2018. As such, if the period of availability for the FY 2017 grant is not extended, the FY 2017 award will lapse on September 30, 2019. Further, given the devastating impact the Hurricanes have had on PRDE and Puerto Rico in general, PRDE seeks this flexibility so that the destruction from Hurricanes does not result in lapsing of otherwise permissible costs.

PRDE assures that it provided notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner in which PRDE customarily provides such notice and information to the public via our site <http://de.pr.gov/asuntos-federales>. PRDE will submit to USDE any comments it receives within 5 days of the closing of the comment period on this waiver.

My office would be happy to further discuss this request, should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Yanin Dieppa at 787-586-4191 or [dieppapy@de.pr.gov](mailto:dieppapy@de.pr.gov). I will make myself available to discuss this requests and next steps with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Julia B. Keleher  
Secretary

P.O. Box 190759, San Juan PR 00919-0759 • Tel.: (787)773-2003



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