Dear SFUSD Community:

The San Francisco Unified School District is one of seven California school districts collaborating as part of CORE Districts that was approved for an NCLB flexibility waiver by the U.S. Department of Education in August 2013. This waiver allows the participating districts to implement the School Quality Improvement System in place of federal NCLB rules, shifting the orientation of our district’s work towards a collective effort to prepare all students for college and career. This unprecedented holistic approach to accountability is intended to eliminate disparity and disproportionality in all subjects and across academic, social-emotional, and culture-climate domains.

Staff from SFUSD and the other participating districts worked together throughout the first year of implementation to refine the accountability model, we reported these changes to the School Quality Improvement System as amendments when we requested extension of the waiver approval. On September 12th, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education approved a one year extension of the CORE waiver. With that extension, some of the requested amendments were approved while others were held for consideration until final development was complete. The extension has given the CORE districts additional time to apply innovative and holistic approaches to preparing all students for college and career while we finalize technical elements of the metrics we will use to hold our districts accountable for student success and complete development of educator evaluation guidelines.

In March 2015, SFUSD in partnership with six other participating districts, will request a three year extension of the School Quality Improvement System. This request submission will include finalized accountability system metrics, Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and aligned assessment (SBAC) implementation updates, and educator evaluation guidelines development.

We are interested in sharing additional information about the School Quality Improvement System with you and hearing your comments about the CORE waiver extension request. You can learn more about the extension request in the following ways:

- Visit [http://www.sfusd.edu/](http://www.sfusd.edu/)
- Attend the Augmented Curriculum and Program Committee meeting on March 2, 2015

General public comments may also be provided through: [http://bit.ly/CORErenewal](http://bit.ly/CORErenewal), emailing core@caedpartners.org, faxing (916) 244-0250, calling (916) 596-2548, or via regular mail to 1107 9th Street, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814.

You can also contact Jill Hoogendyk, Executive Director – Curriculum & Instruction at (415) 379-7618. The public comment window will be open between Comments received by March 13, 2015 will be summarized and sent to the CORE Board by March 20, 2015 and considered as part of the extension request.

The CORE Board, comprised of the superintendents from each of the CORE districts, will review public comments and feedback before making final decisions related to submission of the finalized extension request in late March 2015.

Thank you for your continued support of SFUSD students and schools.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Carranza