ESEA FLEXIBILITY WAIVER SCHOOL DESIGNATION STATUS:

**2015-2016 School Year**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On February 9, 2012 the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) received waivers from ten requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by No ChildLeft Behind (NCLB) of 2001. ESEA/NCLB requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of the school’s academic achievement as well as the school’s designation under Georgia’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver. This letter is intended to provide additional information concerning the options available to your child under Georgia’s ESEA Flexibility Waiver and to help you understand what the waiver will mean for you and your child.

Beginning with the 2012--‐2013 school year, the GaDOE will transition from needs improvement (NI) school designations based on adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports to Reward, Priority, Focus and Alert Schools designations based on ESEA Flexibility Waiver formulas. Title I schools will now implement specific programs and interventions based on Reward, Priority, Focus, and Alert Schools status. In addition, the GaDOE ESEA Flexibility Waiver outlines Georgia’s new Single Statewide Accountability System, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI will serve as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. The state system will give parents, students, teachers and families a more complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

The Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver also eliminated Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Public School Choice (Choice). However, schools designated as Priority or Focus will be required to implement and develop Flexible Learning Programs (FLP) beginning June 2012. Alert Schools may also implement and develop a FLP if they choose to do so. The Georgia ESEA Flexibility Waiver provides greater flexibility in designing a FLP tailored to the needs of the schools. As a result, these identified schools will have the capacity to serve more students in need of additional academic support.

Priority Schools and Focus Schools were identified with 2011 test data and will be served with support interventions for 3 years. Alert and Reward Schools will be identified annually.

• Reward Schools replace the Title I Distinguished Schools and Distinguished Districts designations. They are identified annually and may be classified as either a Highest--‐Performing School or a High--‐ Progress School. Schools designated as a Highest--‐Performing Reward School are in the top 5% of Title I schools and either have the highest performance for all students over three years or is a high school with the highest graduation rates in Georgia. Schools designated as a High--‐Progress Reward School the school must be in the top 10% of Title I schools and either have the highest progress in performance for all students over three years or is a high school that is making the most progress in increasing graduation rates.

• Priority Schools are Title I schools that are among the lowest 5% of Title I schools in the state based on the achievement of the All Students group in terms of proficiency on the statewide assessments and has demonstrated a lack of progress on those assessments over a number of years in the All Students group; are a Title I--‐participating or Title I--‐eligible high school with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years; or a Tier I or Tier II school under the School Improvement Grants (SIG) program that is using SIG funds to implement a school intervention models.

• Focus Schools are 10% of Title I schools that have the largest within--‐school gaps between the highest--‐achieving subgroup or subgroups and the lowest--‐achieving subgroup or subgroups or, at the high school level, have the largest within--‐school gaps in graduation rates (within--‐school--‐gaps Focus School). They can also be Title I high schools with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years that are not identified as a Priority School (low-­‐graduation-­‐rate Focus School).

* Alert Schools consist of Title I and Non-­‐Title I schools based on nine ESEA/NCLB subgroups. They fall into one of the three following categories using ESEA disaggregated subgroups or subject performance on both statewide assessments and graduation rate: Graduation Alert, Subgroup Alert or Subject Alert.

**The School Designation Status for each of the Sumter County Schools is as follows for the 2015-­‐2016 school year:**

Sumter County Primary School – No school designation

Sumter County Early Learning Center at Sarah Cobb – No school designation

Sumter County Intermediate School- No school designation

Sumter County Elementary School – Focus School

Sumter County Middle School – Focus School

Americus-Sumter High School - Priority School

Americus- Sumter Ninth Grade Academy at Staley – Reward School

You will be receiving more information from your child’s school regarding the school’s academic achievement and what support interventions will be taking place throughout the year if your child’s school has been named as a Priority, Focus, or Alert School.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Gayla Braziel, Title I Director at 229- 931-8525 or gbraziel@sumterschools.org

Sincerely,

Gayla Braziel, Title I Director

Sumter County Schools