

June 10, 2008

Honorable Mike Flanagan  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State Department of Education  
608 West Allegan Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Superintendent Flanagan:

With great pleasure, I am accepting Michigan's growth model proposal to be part of the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) pilot project. I am excited to continue to explore through this pilot the promise that growth models hold for ensuring that all students reach grade-level standards in reading and mathematics by 2013–14. Further, this pilot will help us consider different ways to measure school accountability, give schools credit for improvement over time, and measure individual student progress. Congratulations for submitting a successful proposal.

To enable Michigan to implement its growth model as part of determining adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the 2007–08 school year, I am entering into this flexibility agreement with Michigan under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). This agreement permits Michigan to include its growth model as a part of calculating AYP under section 1111(b)(2) of the ESEA. As part of this flexibility agreement, Michigan must agree to the following:

- Michigan must provide data comparing the results of determining AYP on the basis of its growth model with the results obtained when AYP is determined under the statutory model.
- Michigan must participate in an evaluation of its growth model conducted by the Department.

After the first year of implementation, we will discuss with you any modifications that may need to be made to your growth model.

As required by section 9401(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the ESEA, within 30 days of the date of this letter, Michigan must provide notice and information to the public regarding this flexibility agreement in the manner in which it customarily provides similar notice to the public.

Again, I congratulate you on Michigan's successful growth model proposal. I look forward to working with you to evaluate the impact of Michigan's growth model on ensuring school accountability and measuring student progress.

Sincerely,

/s

Margaret Spellings

cc: Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Joseph Martineau