

June 10, 2008

Dr. D. Kent King
Commissioner of Education
Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education
205 Jefferson Street, 6th Floor
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Commissioner King

With great pleasure, I am accepting Missouri'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 Missouri 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 Missouri 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 Missouri 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, Missouri must agree to the following:

- Missouri 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.
- Missouri 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.

Please note that this approval is conditional upon Missouri's adopting a uniform minimum group size for all students in the State, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.

As required by section 9401(b)(3)(A)(iii) of the ESEA, within 30 days of the date of this letter, Missouri 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 Missouri's successful growth model proposal. I look forward to working with you to evaluate the impact of Missouri's growth model on ensuring school accountability and measuring student progress.

Sincerely,

/s/

Margaret Spellings

cc: Honorable Matthew Blunt
Becky Odneal