



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Tim Webb
Acting Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education
Andres Johnson Tower – 6th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0375

Dear Commissioner Webb:

I am pleased to hereby renew the Department's approval of Tennessee's participation in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) growth model pilot. This approval allows Tennessee to implement its growth model as a part of its calculation of adequate yearly progress (AYP) under section 1111(b)(2) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), for AYP determinations in 2008–09 based on assessments administered in the 2007–08 school year. Tennessee is granted this flexibility under section 9401 of the ESEA.

As in the past, in exchange for the flexibility granted to Tennessee, Tennessee must continue to comply with the following conditions for the growth model pilot:

- Tennessee must provide the Department with 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; and
- Tennessee must continue its participation in the evaluation of growth models being conducted by the National Opinion Research Council and the University of Chicago.

Continued approval to participate in the growth model pilot beyond this school year will be determined later this year. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding Tennessee's continued participation in the growth model pilot, please contact Lauren Prehoda (Lauren.Prehoda@ed.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Briggs".

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

cc: Governor Phil Bredesen
Connie Smith

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202
www.ed.gov

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.