



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Mark Johnson  
State Superintendent  
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
6301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-6301

June 21, 2019

Dear Superintendent Johnson:

Thank you for submitting North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's (NCDPI's) application for the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority (IADA) authorized in section 1204 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). I appreciate the work of you and your team to develop this IADA proposal.

As you know, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) conducted, as required by the statute, a peer review of NCDPI's application. Peer reviewers examined the application using the program requirements and selection criteria described in 34 CFR §§ 200.105 and 200.106. On March 8, 2019, the Department requested additional information based on our review of the peer feedback and our own analysis of North Carolina's application. NCDPI provided this information on May 8, 2019.

After reviewing the initial application and NCDPI's additional information, I am pleased to approve NCDPI to implement the innovative assessments described in its application in accordance with section 1204 of the ESEA and 34 CFR §§ 200.104-200.108. NCDPI may exercise this authority through the 2023-2024 school year. NCDPI must ensure that all students in grades three through eight and once in high school are assessed on either an innovative assessment or the State's assessments under section 1111(b)(2)(B) of the ESEA and include the results in accountability determinations in accordance with sections 1111(c) and (d) of the ESEA.

In granting this authority, I am placing two conditions on NCDPI's authority:

1. As you implement the innovative assessment system, the State must continue to consult with the following stakeholders: those representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners and other subgroups of students; representatives of Indian tribes located in the State; students; parents; and civil rights organizations.
2. The State must report on its on-going consultation in the Annual Performance Report on the progress of the innovative assessments.

I congratulate you on receiving this authority to explore innovative ways to better assess student achievement in North Carolina.

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[www.ed.gov](http://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*

Thank you for the important work that you and your staff are doing to support the innovation that is possible through the ESEA. The Department looks forward to working with you and learning from you as you implement North Carolina's innovative assessments. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at: [NorthCarolina.OESE@ed.gov](mailto:NorthCarolina.OESE@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan  
Assistant Secretary  
for Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Tammy Howard, Director, Accountability Services