



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

APR 30 2014

The Honorable John White
State Superintendent of Education
Louisiana Department of Education
PO Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Superintendent White:

On August 5–6, 2013, a team from the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted Part B monitoring of the Louisiana Department of Education’s (LDOE) implementation of its approved ESEA flexibility request.. Part B monitoring aims to continue the collaborative relationship begun during the request approval process, provide ED with a deeper understanding of each State educational agency’s (SEA) goals and approaches to implementing ESEA flexibility, and ensure that the SEA has the critical elements of ESEA flexibility in place to continue implementation of its plan.

The review focused on the following ESEA flexibility elements:

- SEA Systems and Processes, including Monitoring, Technical Assistance, Data Collection and Use, and Family & Community Engagement and Outreach
- Transitioning to and Implementing College- and Career-Ready Standards
- Adopting English Language Proficiency Standards
- Developing and Administering High-Quality Assessments
- Developing and Administering Alternate Assessments
- Developing and Administering English Language Proficiency Assessments
- Annually Reporting College-Going and College-Credit Accumulation Rates
- Developing and Implementing a State-Based System of Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support
- Reward, Priority, Focus, and Other Title I Schools
- State and Local Report Cards
- Teacher and Principal Evaluation and Support Systems

Enclosed is a summary report based on this review. The report includes highlights of the LDOE’s implementation of ESEA flexibility and, for each indicator, a snapshot of LDOE’s progress in implementing ESEA flexibility. To ensure that LDOE implements flexibility consistent with its approved request and the timelines and principles of ESEA flexibility, if appropriate, the report also includes “next steps” that were discussed with the SEA during an exit conference conducted on August 26, 2013.

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<http://www.ed.gov/>

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

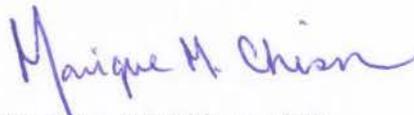
Please note that, the *SEA Systems and Processes* elements interconnect with the three Principles of ESEA flexibility for which ED monitors all other elements in the Part B monitoring protocol. For example, if an SEA does not meet the requirements of the *Focus Schools* element under Principle 2 of ESEA flexibility, that SEA may also not meet a particular element under *SEA Systems and Processes* with respect to focus schools. Such next steps can often be addressed with one action taken by the SEA (*i.e.*, the *Next Step* may be the same). ED also anticipates that several of the next steps, such as the one related to teacher and principal evaluation systems, will be resolved once LDOE submits amendments that reflect current practice through the ESEA flexibility extension process.

LDOE should respond to the “next steps” through the ESEA flexibility extension process which is due 60 days from receipt of this report. This report will be posted on the ESEA flexibility website. In the coming months ED will issue a comprehensive summary of each SEA’s implementation of ESEA flexibility that includes information gathered through the Part B monitoring process and provides more detail about the innovative practices and common challenges that States are facing as they engage in the effective implementation of ESEA flexibility.

I want to thank you and your staff for the hard work you have undertaken to implement ESEA flexibility. If you have any questions or there are ways that ED staff can provide you additional support as you move forward in implementing your ESEA flexibility request, please feel free to reach out to your SEA’s ESEA flexibility contact.

I look forward to continuing our work with you as you implement your ESEA flexibility request. Thank you for your commitment to Louisiana’s children.

Sincerely,



Monique M. Chism, Ph.D.
Director
Student Achievement and
School Accountability Programs

Enclosure

cc: Jessica Baghian, Louisiana Department of Education