UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEB 11 2014

The Honorable Christopher Cerf
Commissioner of Education
New Jersey Department of Education
PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Cerf:

Between July 23-25, 2013, a team from the U. S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted Part B monitoring of the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) 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; and
- Teacher and Principal Evaluation and Support Systems.

Enclosed is a report based upon this review. The report includes highlights of NJDOE's implementation of ESEA flexibility and, for each indicator, a snapshot of NJDOE's progress in implementing ESEA flexibility. If appropriate, the report also includes "next steps" that were discussed with the SEA during an exit conference conducted on August 16, 2013 to ensure that NJDOE implements flexibility consistent with its approved request and the timelines and principles of ESEA flexibility. NJDOE should respond to the "next steps" within 30 or 60 business days, as indicated, after receipt of this report. This report will be posted on the ESEA flexibility website.

Additionally, 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 New Jersey's children.

Sincerely,

Monique M. Chism

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

Enclosure

cc: Bari Erlichson
James Palmer