



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Michael Hanley  
Commissioner  
Department of Education & Early Development  
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811

FEB 27 2015

Dear Commissioner Hanley:

On January 7th and 9th, 2015, a team from the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted Part B monitoring of Alaska's implementation of its approved Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), flexibility request. Part B monitoring aims to continue the collaborative relationship that began 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

Enclosed is a summary report based upon this review. The report includes highlights of Alaska's ESEA flexibility implementation and, for each indicator, a snapshot of Alaska'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 January 27, 2015 to ensure that Alaska implements flexibility consistent with its approved request and the timelines and principles of ESEA flexibility. Alaska should respond to the "next steps" within 30 business days after receipt of this report unless otherwise identified. This report will be posted on the ESEA flexibility website.

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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 Alaska's children.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature. Above the box, there are faint blue ink marks that appear to be the initials 'M.M.C.'.

Monique M. Chism, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of State Support

Enclosure

cc: Margaret MacKinnon, Director of Assessment and Accountability  
Brad Billings, ESEA Administrator