



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Thomas R. Bice  
State Superintendent of Education  
Alabama State Department of Education  
50 North Ripley Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

FEB 27 2015

Dear Superintendent Bice:

On December 17th and 18th, 2014, a team from the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted Part B monitoring of Alabama'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's) 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 Alabama's implementation of ESEA flexibility and, for each indicator, a snapshot of Alabama'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 26, 2014 to ensure that Alabama implements flexibility consistent with its approved request and the timelines and principles of ESEA flexibility. Alabama 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.

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

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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 Alabama's children.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure

cc: Sherrill Parris, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning  
Melinda Maddox, Assistant Superintendent of Research, Information, and Data Services  
Shanthia Washington, Coordinator of Accountability