



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

NOV 28 2011

The Honorable John Huppenthal
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Arizona Department of Education
1535 West Jefferson Street, Bin 2
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Superintendent Huppenthal:

I am pleased to approve Arizona's general science assessments and alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards for reading/language arts, mathematics, and science under Title I, Part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended. Combined with Arizona's previously approved standards and assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics, Arizona has a fully approved standards and assessment system under Title I of the ESEA. I congratulate you on this significant accomplishment.

My decision is based on input from peer reviewers external to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and Department staff who reviewed and carefully considered the evidence submitted by Arizona. I have concluded that the evidence demonstrates that Arizona's standards and assessment system satisfies the ESEA requirements. Specifically, Arizona's system includes academic content and student academic achievement standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science; alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in those subjects; assessments in each of grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 in reading/language arts, and mathematics; assessments in science in each of the three required grade spans; and alternate assessments for each subject.

Accordingly, Arizona's system warrants *Full Approval*. This status means that Arizona's standards and assessment system meets all statutory and regulatory requirements under Title I of the ESEA for standards and assessments of reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.

Please be aware that approval of Arizona's standards and assessment system under the ESEA is not a determination that the system complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, Title IX of the *Education Amendments of 1972*, Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, and requirements under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Finally, please remember that, if Arizona makes significant changes to its standards and assessment system, Arizona must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval.

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

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We have found it a pleasure working with your staff on this review. Please accept my congratulations for Arizona's approved standards and assessment system in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Clayton Hollingshead at clayton.hollingshead@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael Yudin
Acting Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Jan Brewer
Roberta Alley