



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OCT 26 2009

The Honorable Alexa Posny  
Commissioner of Education  
Kansas State Department of Education  
120 SE 10th Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

Dear Commissioner Posny:

I am pleased to approve Kansas' alternate assessments based on modified academic achievement standards (AA-MAAS), the Kansas Assessments of Modified Measures (KAMM) in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science under Title I, Part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended. Kansas' leadership in developing and implementing these assessments is commendable, and I applaud Kansas' commitment to instruction and assessment based on challenging academic achievement standards for all students with disabilities.

My decision regarding the KAMM in reading/language arts, mathematics and science 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 Kansas in May as well as the additional evidence submitted in July, August, and September. I have concluded that the evidence provided demonstrates that the KAMM satisfies the regulatory requirements for an AA-MAAS. I have enclosed detailed comments from the peer review team that evaluated the KAMM for your information.

Please note that the Department will provide, in a separate letter, results of the recent peer review of Kansas' science assessments, which was also conducted in May 2009. Again, please accept my congratulations on the approval of the KAMM. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Clayton Hollingshead ([Clayton.Hollingshead@ed.gov](mailto:Clayton.Hollingshead@ed.gov)).

Sincerely,



Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Ph.D.

Enclosure

cc: Governor Mark Parkinson  
Judi Miller  
Tom Foster

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