



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MAR 09 2010

Mr. Paul Pastorek
State Superintendent of Education
Louisiana Department of Education
P.O. Box 94064
1201 North 3rd Street, 5th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9064

Dear Superintendent Pastorek:

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

The Louisiana Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA2) in English/language arts and mathematics for grades 4 through 10 and science and social studies for grades 4, 8, and 11 complies with all regulatory requirements for modified achievement standards and assessments. This is a significant accomplishment that I am confident will benefit students with disabilities in Louisiana.

Please be aware that approval of Louisiana'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 Louisiana makes significant changes to its standards and assessment system, Louisiana must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval.

We have found it a pleasure working with your staff on this review. Please accept my congratulations for Louisiana's approved assessments based on modified academic achievement standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science. I wish you well in your continued efforts to improve student achievement in Louisiana. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Rigney (sue.rigney@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Ph.D.

cc: Governor Bobby Jindal
Scott Norton

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