



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent of Education
Hawaii Department of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

February 19, 2019

Dear Superintendent Kishimoto:

I am writing in response to the Hawaii Department of Education's (HIDOE's) letter to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) on January 18, 2019, requesting a formal written response clarifying the concerns that the Department has identified with HIDOE's consolidated State plan approved on January 19, 2018 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

During our review of HIDOE's implementation of its approved ESEA State plan, the Department identified an issue that requires an amendment to the plan so that it meets the applicable statutory requirements. The issue concerns HIDOE's methodology for identifying schools for additional targeted support and improvement (ATSI). Specifically, the State plan states that HIDOE will use the lowest overall school performance unit score of the schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) as a result of being among the lowest-performing five percent of Title I schools for each grade span as the threshold for identifying schools for ATSI. Under ESEA section 1111(d)(2)(C), however, HIDOE must identify for ATSI any school with one or more subgroups of students performing as poorly as the schools identified for CSI due to low performance. Since a State must include all schools with a subgroup performing as poorly as any school identified for CSI, HIDOE must amend its State plan to reflect a methodology that uses the highest overall school performance unit score of schools identified for CSI as the threshold for identifying schools for ATSI. HIDOE must identify schools for ATSI using its revised methodology that complies with the ESEA requirements no later than the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

I recognize that HIDOE will need time to make revisions to its State plan and engage with stakeholders across the State before it can submit an amendment to the Department. Within 60 days of receipt of this letter, please submit to the Department an amendment or a plan and timeline for submitting an amendment to revise the methodology for identifying schools for ATSI. My staff is available to work with HIDOE in developing the plan and timeline to ensure that the State will have a revised methodology approved by the Department in time to identify schools for ATSI no later than the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

Page 2 – The Honorable Christina Kishimoto

Thank you for all of the work that HDOE has put into its consolidated State plan under the ESEA. If you need any assistance regarding the implementation of your ESEA consolidated State plan, please contact Robert Salley of my staff at: OSS.Hawaii@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan
Assistant Secretary
for Elementary and Secondary Education