



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Rebecca Holcombe
Secretary of Education
Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Secretary Holcombe:

I am writing in response to Vermont's request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) on April 19, 2018, to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. Under ESEA Section 1111(A)(6)(B)(i), if a State makes any significant changes to its plan at any time, such information shall be submitted to the Secretary in the form of revisions and amendments to the State plan.

I have determined that the amended request meets the requirements in the ESEA and, for this reason, I am approving Vermont's amended State plan. I am also approving several technical corrections that Vermont has made to its plan. A summary of Vermont's amendment and the technical corrections is enclosed. This letter, as well as Vermont's revised ESEA consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website. Any further requests to amend Vermont's ESEA consolidated State plan must be submitted to the Department for review and approval. With regard to this amendment, the Department anticipates that Vermont will need to further amend its plan following field testing of the physical fitness assessments described.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment to Vermont's consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the amended State plan comply 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. It is Vermont's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Thank you for all of the work that the Vermont Agency of Education has put into its

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<http://www.ed.gov/>

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

consolidated State plan under the ESEA. If you need any assistance regarding the implementation of your ESEA consolidated State plan, please contact Elizabeth Witt of my staff at: OSS.Vermont@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jason Botel
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Delegated the Authority to Perform the
Functions and Duties of the position of
Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Enclosure

cc: Patrick Halladay, Ph.D., ESSA Project Manager

Amendment to the Vermont Consolidated State Plan

The following is a summary of Vermont's amendment request. Please refer to the U.S Department of Education's website

<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/map/vt.html> for Vermont's complete consolidated State plan.

- Technical Corrections

1. The Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) created four performance levels for each of its indicators. For indicators based on assessment results, it then divided each performance level into deciles. The VT-AOE identified computational errors in certain of these decile tables, which it corrects with this amendment.
2. The VT-AOE intended to base values in a particular school identification matrix (Table 40) on data from a prior calculation (Table 39), but those ranges were inconsistent. The VT-AOE corrects this oversight through its amendment.
3. The VT-AOE intended for the improvement ranges listed in Table 39 also to apply to annual meaningful differentiation. The VT-AOE incorporates them into Table 35 for this purpose, similarly correcting an oversight.
4. The VT-AOE corrects an inconsistency in the State-determined timeline for reaching English language proficiency. In the previously approved version of the plan, in a section regarding the long-term goals for achieving English language proficiency, the VT-AOE specified that scores of either a 5 or 6 on the ACCESS assessment indicate English language proficiency. However, a subsequent section detailing the timeframe for an English learner at each level of proficiency to achieve full proficiency inadvertently failed to consider that a level 5 score is considered "proficient" in the State. The VT-AOE made corresponding adjustments to ensure internal consistency of the plan.

- School Quality or Student Success Indicator(s) (ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(B)(v))

VT-AOE specified the assessments it will field test in 2017-2018 and the grade levels of those assessments (4, 7, and 10). This amendment does not change the timeline for implementation of the new "healthy or becoming healthy" indicator as compared with what was already part of VT-AOE's approved plan. VT-AOE will continue to use two other previously approved school quality or student success indicators in making accountability determinations based on the 2017-2018 school year.