

**ESEA FLEXIBILITY
Amendment Submission Template**

Dear Assistant Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to request approval to amend the State’s approved ESEA flexibility request. The relevant information, outlined in the *ESEA Flexibility Amendment Submission Process* document, is provided in the table below.

Please note: We have included a sample amendment for your information. Please add rows as necessary to request multiple amendments.

Flexibility Element(s) Affected by the Amendment	Brief Description of Element as Originally Approved	Brief Description of Requested Amendment	Rationale	Process for Consulting with Stakeholders, Summary of Comments, and Changes Made as a Result
2.A.i-Develop and Implement a State-Based System of Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support 2.D—Priority Schools 2.F-Focus Schools	In the currently approved flexibility request approved external providers are required for priority schools.	The ADE proposes to remove the requirement for schools to hire an approved external provider and make it optional with hiring a School Improvement Specialist (SIS). See pages 54, 68, 70, 88-95, 100-104, & 118	To increase schools options, giving them the ability to hire a full time SIS to assist the school daily. Providing a great degree of focused assistance.	This issue has been discussed at two stakeholder meetings, and the Committee of Practitioners. We also anticipate issuing a Commissioner’s Memo statewide inviting public comment on this amendment. We will attach LEA comments submitted in response to the invitation to comment.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0581.

Attached to this letter is a redlined version of the pages from our approved ESEA flexibility request that would be impacted with strikeouts and additions to demonstrate how the request would change with approval of the proposed amendment. Please contact Megan Witonski at megan.witonski@arkansas.gov or by phone at 501-683-4800 if you have any questions regarding this proposed amendment.

ADE acknowledges that the U.S. Department of Education may request supplementary information to inform consideration of this request.



Chief State School Officer

3/28/14

Date