

**ESEA FLEXIBILITY  
Amendment Submission Template**

Dear Assistant Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of the Delaware Department of Education 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.

<b>Flexibility Element(s) Affected by the Amendment</b>	<b>Brief Description of Element as Originally Approved</b>	<b>Brief Description of Requested Amendment</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Process for Consulting with Stakeholders, Summary of Comments, and Changes Made as a Result</b>
<i>Sample</i>				
2.A.i—State-Developed Recognition, Accountability, and Support System	See pages 55-56. Originally, we proposed to maintain our current minimum n-size (n=40) for performance. This has been the n-size under NCLB for several years.	We propose to reduce our minimum n-size for performance to 30.	Reducing the n-size for performance would result in significantly more schools being held accountable for the performance of subgroups than under NCLB. Specifically, reducing the n-size for performance from 40 to 30 would result in 167 or 15 percent more schools being held accountable for the performance of the African American subgroup, 140 or 13 percent more schools being held accountable for the performance of the Hispanic	<p>We sent an email to all LEAs inviting comment and posted a public notice on our website. We invited discussion at an open portion of a State Board meeting and discussed the issue at two stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>Some comments were received in support of the amendment; others expressed concern at being held accountable for additional subgroups of students. As a result, we will emphasize to our LEAs the importance of addressing the needs of all students and the support available to all schools to address these needs. Further, we</p>

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			subgroup, and 127 or 11 percent more schools being held accountable for the performance of the economically disadvantaged subgroup. We firmly believe in holding schools accountable for the performance of subgroups as defined in the ESEA.	will continue to emphasize that the consequence structure has changed under the flexibility to give LEA and schools greater incentive to address the needs of persistently underperforming subgroups.  Attached are LEA comments submitted in response to the invitation to comment.
<i>2.F Provide Incentives and Supports for other Title I Schools</i>	LEAs will be required to update/revise their Success Plan with specific objectives, strategies and measures when a school in the LEA does not meet the AMO for a specific subgroup. The revision/update is to be made by the LEA within four weeks.	DDOE will identify the other Title I schools that missed State AMOs in same subgroup and content area for two consecutive years (2011-2012 and 2012-2013) and those who missed graduation rates by subgroup. All subgroups that apply to that school will be analyzed. LEA will provide the specific steps the LEA will take to work with the identified Title I	This revised process is less a burdensome on the district and provides additional ownership on the part of the district for its the other Title I school.	We sent an email to all LEAs inviting comment and published a public notice on our website. Additionally, this was presented to the district chiefs and to the Delaware Education Support System (DESS) Advisory Council.  The ESEA Flex Extension request document with a public notice was published on the DDOE website inviting comments on all proposed changes to the document.

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		<p>schools including, but not limited to, requiring the Title I schools to update their schoolwide plan to include strategies that have reasonable promise of positively impacting the specific areas of concern to DDOE within 30 calendar days.</p> <p>This will be a standing item on the districts memos during the monitoring routines.</p>		
<p><i>3.A Develop and Adopt Guidelines for Local Teacher and Principal Evaluation and Support System</i></p>	<p>The state's evaluation system used the state assessments in reading and mathematics as one of the multiple measures of student growth in the educator evaluation system.</p>	<p>As the state transitions to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium assessments in ELA and Mathematics For the 2014-15 school year, the state will use these assessments for "information purposes". The DPAS II evaluation</p>	<p>Because the 2014-15 school year is the first full year of implementation for the SBAC assessments and the assessments will not be fully administered until Spring 2014, Delaware will not be in a position to have the student growth targets available to educators in the Fall of 2014. Demonstrating student growth and have student growth</p>	<p>DDOE sent an email to all teachers on January 16, 2014 indicating the change. Additionally, this was communicated by email to the Delaware Education Support System (DESS) Advisory Council and presented at the State Board of Education meeting on January 16, 2014.</p> <p>The revised ESEA Flex Extension document was published on the DDOE</p>

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
		system will continue to include multiple measures of student growth for this transitional year.	targets are fundamental to the DPAS II system. This one year will allow for the standard setting to be in place.	website inviting comments on all proposed changes to the document.

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[s]. Please contact Susan Haberstroh at [susan.haberstroh@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:susan.haberstroh@doe.k12.de.us) or by phone at 302-857-3301 if you have any questions regarding these proposed amendments.

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

  
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 Chief State School Officer

1-23-14  
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 Date