



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEB 12 2015

The Honorable Mitchell Chester
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Commissioner Chester:

Thank you for submitting Massachusetts' "ESEA Flexibility Accountability Addendum" (Accountability Addendum) for review. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) appreciates the effort required to prepare the Accountability Addendum, which would replace Massachusetts' existing accountability workbook under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA).

ED staff completed a review of your State's Addendum, submitted on February 18, 2013. At this time, ED is unable to approve this Addendum until the State comes into compliance with section 1111(b)(3)(C)(i) of the ESEA. ED identified this issue in an October 9, 2014 letter approving Massachusetts' request to extend its ESEA flexibility through the end of the 2014–2015 school year. ED wrote that Massachusetts' proposed ESEA flexibility amendment allows districts the choice, for the 2014–2015 school year, to administer in grades 3 through 8 either the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System assessments or the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers assessments, which is a violation of section 1111(b)(3)(C)(i) of the ESEA. ED wrote that Massachusetts will need to come into compliance with section 1111(b)(3)(C)(i) of the ESEA by the 2015–2016 school year through the administration of one Statewide assessment, and will need to provide ED with a detailed plan and timeline on how the State plans to do so. ED staff will be in touch with your ESEA flexibility team leader to discuss this plan and determine the timeframe in which it must be submitted.

I want to thank you and your staff for the work you have undertaken to submit this Accountability Addendum. If you have any questions or if my staff can provide you any additional support, please do not hesitate to contact Millie Bentley-Memon at (202) 401-1427 or via e-mail: millicent.bentley-memon@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

cc: Matthew Pakos, Director of School Improvement Grant Programs

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