



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

April 25, 2013

The Honorable Richard Ross
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street
Mail Stop 70
Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Dear Superintendent Ross:

Congratulations on your new position; please know that my staff and I look forward to working with you and your team as you continue to implement ESEA flexibility in Ohio.

I am writing today to inform you of the outcome of the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) review of Ohio's guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. During the week of July 16, 2012, two peer experts reviewed Ohio's guidelines and the corresponding changes to Principle 3 of Ohio's request. ED staff also reviewed Ohio's submission, and both the peers and ED provided feedback to Ohio regarding its submission.

Based on the review of Ohio's guidelines, the corresponding changes to Principle 3 of its ESEA flexibility request, and the information Ohio submitted in September 2012, December 2012, and January 2013 in response to peer and ED feedback, I have determined that Ohio's guidelines meet all requirements of ESEA flexibility.

I congratulate you on submitting guidelines and a process for ensuring that each district in Ohio develops, adopts, pilots, and implements teacher and principal evaluation and support systems consistent with those guidelines, both of which reaffirm Ohio's commitment to improving academic achievement and the quality of instruction for all of the State's elementary and secondary school students.

Please note that, although Principle 3 of Ohio's ESEA flexibility request meets all requirements for that principle, the approval of Ohio's request remains conditionally approved through the end of the 2012-2013 school year. In order to satisfy this condition, Ohio must submit to the Department for review and approval: (1) an amended request that incorporates the final administrative rules for its A-F school grading system or demonstrates that Ohio will continue to meet the ESEA flexibility principles in the absence of those administrative rules; and (2) a copy of the final administrative rules, if applicable. Ohio should submit this information to the Department no later than June 30, 2013. Please note that per the discussion between your staff and ED on March 21, 2013, I understand that Ohio intends to submit an amended ESEA flexibility request.

If you have any questions regarding the amendment process or anything else related to Ohio's implementation of ESEA flexibility, please contact Elizabeth Ross at (202) 260-8961 or elizabeth.ross@ed.gov.

A copy of Ohio's approved request for ESEA flexibility, including its guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems, as well as the revised Principle 3, will be posted on the ED's web site at: www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility/requests/.

I congratulate you on developing guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems that meet the requirements of ESEA flexibility and thank you for the work that you and your staff have done. I look forward to continuing to support you as you implement Ohio's ESEA flexibility request and work to improve the quality of instruction and academic achievement for all students. Thank you for your commitment to all students in Ohio.

Sincerely,

/s/

Alexander T. Goniprow, Ed.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and
Planning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Lori Lofton, Senior Executive Director, Center for the Teaching Profession, Ohio
Department of Education