



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEB 10 2015

The Honorable Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Oliver Hodge Building  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

I am writing in response to the Oklahoma State Department of Education's (OSDE's) request of December 1, 2014, for a waiver of certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. In particular, OSDE requested a waiver of (1) ESEA section 1111(b)(1)(B) and the corresponding regulatory provisions that require each State to apply the same academic content and academic achievement standards to all public schools and public school children in the State; and (2) ESEA section 1111(b)(3)(C)(i) and the corresponding regulatory provisions that require each State's assessments to be the same academic assessment used to measure the achievement of all public school children. OSDE requested and received a similar waiver for the 2013–2014 school year.

OSDE requested this waiver so that it does not have to assess, on the grade-level Statewide assessments, a middle school student who takes advanced, high school level, mathematics, coursework and the corresponding assessment prior to entering high school. Rather, OSDE will assess its middle school students who take advanced, high school level, coursework in mathematics on the corresponding assessment alone, instead of on both the grade-level Statewide assessment and the advanced, high school level, assessment.

After reviewing OSDE's request, I am granting, pursuant to my authority under ESEA section 9401, a one-year waiver, for the 2014–2015 school year, of ESEA sections 1111(b)(1)(B) and 1111(b)(3)(C)(i) and the corresponding regulatory provisions. With this waiver, OSDE may assess a student who is not yet enrolled in high school but who takes advanced, high school level, mathematics coursework with the corresponding advanced, high school level, assessment alone. For Federal accountability purposes, OSDE must use the results of that assessment in the year in which it is administered. OSDE must also administer one or more additional advanced, high school level, mathematics assessments to such students in high school, consistent with the State's academic content standards for those subjects, and use the results in high school accountability determinations.

Thank you for assuring that OSDE and its local educational agencies (LEAs) will continue to offer opportunities for advanced coursework for capable students. Additionally, OSDE and its LEAs will ensure that affected students are assessed on the advanced mathematics content, and OSDE's LEAs will

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
<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.*

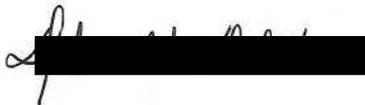
Page 2 – The Honorable Joy Hofmeister

report to OSDE the number of students affected by these waivers. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Ross at: [elizabeth.ross@ed.gov](mailto:elizabeth.ross@ed.gov).

If OSDE wishes to take advantage of this waiver in subsequent years, it may request waiver #14 in its ESEA flexibility renewal form and provide the relevant information in its request. Please see questions A-8 and A-9 in the Department's *ESEA Flexibility Renewal Process: Frequently Asked Questions* (Dec. 15, 2014) for additional clarification.

Thank you for your commitment and continued focus on enhancing education for all of Oklahoma's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which has been partially obscured by a black rectangular redaction box.

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary

cc: Lisa Chandler, Assistant State Superintendent of Assessments