



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

**JUL 23 2015**

The Honorable Salam Noor  
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Oregon Department of Education  
255 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Deputy Superintendent Noor:

I am writing in response to Oregon's request for renewal of flexibility under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA flexibility), so that Oregon may continue to implement ESEA flexibility.

Our team, including my staff and other senior leaders at the U.S. Department of Education (ED), reviewed Oregon's request dated July 17, 2015. Pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the ESEA, I am pleased to renew approval of Oregon's ESEA flexibility request for three years, through the end of the 2017–2018 school year.

My decision to renew approval of Oregon's ESEA flexibility request is based on my determination that ESEA flexibility has been effective in enabling Oregon to carry out important reforms to improve student achievement and that this renewal is in the public interest. With this renewal, Oregon will be able to continue implementing its plans to promote innovative, locally tailored strategies to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. Oregon's approved request will be posted on ED's website.

Oregon's original ESEA flexibility request and extension were approved subject to the condition that the State sufficiently demonstrate that it includes student growth, as defined in ED's June 7, 2012, document titled *ESEA Flexibility*, as a significant factor in its teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. During the renewal process, Oregon addressed its condition by providing evidence of guidance given to its local educational agencies (LEAs) establishing a Statewide approach for how teachers set their student learning and growth goals (SLGs) in tested grades and subjects. Accordingly, I have determined that Oregon has satisfactorily resolved its condition. With resolution of this condition, Oregon's guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems meet the requirements for Principle 3 of ESEA flexibility.

This letter also provides my approval of Oregon's amendments to its ESEA flexibility request. A summary of Oregon's significant approved amendment is enclosed with this letter.

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<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.*

This renewal is subject to Oregon’s commitment to:

- Demonstrate, during ED’s monitoring and follow-up of ESEA flexibility implementation, that Oregon will incorporate student growth in grades 3 and 11 and has undertaken a validation study to compare the post-test data used in its SLGs to outcomes from State assessments administered in the 2015–2016 school year and each year thereafter in grades 3 and 11 for mathematics and English/language arts and will use these findings in its continuous improvement process.

Oregon continues to have an affirmative responsibility to ensure that it and its LEAs are in compliance with Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in their implementation of ESEA flexibility. These laws include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I am confident that Oregon will continue to implement the reforms described in its approved ESEA flexibility request and advance its efforts to hold schools and LEAs accountable for the achievement of all students. If you need any additional assistance to implement your ESEA flexibility request, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Chorozer or Carol Manitaras of my staff at: [OSS.Oregon@ed.gov](mailto:OSS.Oregon@ed.gov).

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

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Ann Whalen  
Delegated the authority to perform the functions  
and duties of Assistant Secretary for Elementary  
and Secondary Education

Enclosure

cc: Theresa Richards, Director of Federal Programs, Office of Learning

## Approved Amendment to Oregon's ESEA Flexibility Request

The following is a summary of the amendment to Oregon's ESEA flexibility request. ED approves this amendment because Oregon's ESEA flexibility request, as amended, continues to be aligned with the principles of ESEA flexibility. Please refer to ED's website (<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/esea-flexibility/map/or.html>) for Oregon's complete ESEA flexibility request.

- **State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support (Principle 2)**

Revision: Oregon will not assign schools new ratings under its system of differentiated recognition, accountability, and support based on assessments administered in the 2014-2015 school year. Oregon will resume assigning ratings based on assessments administered in the 2015-2016 school year.