



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JUN 10 2014

The Honorable Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner of Education  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Superintendent Gist:

Thank you for submitting Rhode Island's "ESEA Flexibility Accountability Addendum" (Accountability Addendum) for review. I appreciate the effort required to prepare the Accountability Addendum, which replaces Rhode Island's existing accountability workbook under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). In conjunction with Rhode Island's approved ESEA flexibility request, the Accountability Addendum provides comprehensive information regarding the elements of Rhode Island's system of differentiated recognition, accountability and support.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) staff have completed a review of Rhode Island's Accountability Addendum, submitted on May 2, 2014, and found that it provides the requisite information. I am pleased to approve Rhode Island's Accountability Addendum, which will be posted on ED's website. If, over time, Rhode Island makes changes to its accountability system that affect what is included in the Accountability Addendum, you must submit information about those changes to ED for approval.

Please be aware that approval of Rhode Island's Accountability Addendum does not indicate that it complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including 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, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I want to thank you and your staff for the work you have undertaken to address the items in the Accountability Addendum. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your ESEA flexibility contact.

I look forward to continuing our work with you as you implement your ESEA flexibility request. Thank you for your commitment to Rhode Island's children.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary

cc: David V. Abbott

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