



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JUN 23 2014

The Honorable Martell Menlove
State Superintendent of Education
Utah State Office of Education
250 East 500 South
PO Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Superintendent Menlove:

This letter is in response to a request from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) following Utah State Office of Education's (USOE's) decision to withdraw from Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), as USOE submitted a request to amend its approved ESEA flexibility request to reflect this change. The USOE included with this request a plan that details the steps USOE will take to implement a high-quality assessment, as defined in the document titled *ESEA Flexibility*, in the 2014–2015 school year.

ED staff has reviewed USOE's plan to implement a high-quality assessment and followed-up with a few questions. Based on that review and your responses to ED's inquiries, I am approving USOE's request to amend its ESEA flexibility request to include its new plan to implement a high-quality assessment in 2014–2015. Please note that approval of this amendment does not constitute approval of the assessment USOE intends to implement. The USOE will need to submit the assessment for peer review when the new assessment peer-review process is available.

In addition, this letter constitutes approval of this particular amendment only. ED will post this letter and USOE's approved assessment plan on ED's ESEA flexibility website. Should USOE request an extension of ESEA flexibility through the 2014–2015 school year, USOE should include as part of that extension request a redlined version of its ESEA flexibility request that includes edits reflecting this change. However, USOE does not need to submit a redlined ESEA flexibility request at this time.

Please also be reminded that ED is committed to helping you accomplish your goals and remains available to provide technical assistance as needed. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Rubén J. Vázquez of my staff at 202-401-1434 or ruben.vazquez@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

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