

Revisions to Reporting Requirements under the SFSF Descriptors and Indicators



February 2012

Agenda

- Revisions to SFSF Reporting Deadlines and Requirements
- Additional Flexibility for Specific Indicators:
 - (b)(1) – statewide longitudinal data system;
 - (c)(11) – college enrollment data; and
 - (c)(12) – college course completion data
- Process for Requesting Additional Flexibility
- Additional Flexibility for States with ESEA Flexibility
- Accountability

Background

- In return for receiving SFSF funds, States agreed to make progress in four reform areas:
 - achieving equity in the distribution of highly qualified teachers;
 - building robust data systems that enable districts to better track student achievement;
 - raising standards and strengthening student assessments; and
 - turning around failing schools.

- In a November 12, 2009 Federal Register notice, the Department established the requirements for the SFSF descriptors and indicators.

Background, continued

- Data collected and reported under the SFSF descriptors and indicators better enable States and other stakeholders to identify strengths and weaknesses in education systems and determine where concentrated reform effort is warranted.
- The Department originally established September 30, 2011 as the deadline for complying with all requirements of the SFSF descriptors and indicators.

Revisions to Reporting Deadline and Requirements

- In response to feedback from many States, the Department subsequently extended that deadline to January 31, 2012.
- The Department also proposed additional flexibility regarding the SFSF reporting requirements for certain indicators and provided the public with an opportunity to comment on those changes.
- The Department finalized those changes in a January 31, 2012 Federal Register Notice.

Complying with Specific Indicators

- The Department is providing additional flexibility in meeting the requirements of those indicators that States identified as particularly challenging:
 - Indicator (b)(1) – development and implementation of a statewide longitudinal data system;
 - Indicator (c)(1 1) – college enrollment data; and
 - Indicator (c)(1 2) – college course completion data.
- In December 2011, the Department released new FERPA regulations and supplemental non-regulatory guidance, which will assist States in complying with the requirements of these indicators.

Revised Deadline for Specific Indicators

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- A State may request an extension of the deadline from January 31, 2012 to December 31, 2013, for complying with the requirements of Indicators (b)(1), (c)(11), and (c)(12).
- A State may also request the authority to use the more flexible “alternative standard” to meet the requirements of Indicator (c)(11).

Indicator (b)(1) – Statewide Longitudinal Data System

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- Indicator (b)(1): A statewide longitudinal data system that includes the 12 elements required under the America COMPETES Act.
- A State meets the requirement by developing and implementing a statewide longitudinal data system containing all 12 elements that includes specific information for pre-K through postsecondary education.

Indicator (c)(1 1) – College Enrollment

- Indicator (c)(1 1): The number and percentage of high school graduates who enroll in an IHE (in-state or out-of-state, public or private) within 16 months of receiving a regular high school diploma.
- Unless a State receives approval to use the alternative standard, a State meets this requirement by either – (1) collecting and publicly reporting the required data, or (2) demonstrating that it has the capacity to collect and report those data.

Indicator (c)(1 1) Alternative Standard

- With Departmental approval, a State may use the alternative standard to comply with the requirements of Indicator (c)(1 1) with respect to students who enroll in private or out-of-state public IHEs.
- Under the alternative standard, a State may meet the requirements of Indicator (c)(1 1) by demonstrating that it has increased its current capacity for collecting and publicly reporting data on such students.

Alternative Standard, continued

- The alternative standard does not apply to students who enroll in an in-state public IHE.
- Whether or not it receives Departmental approval, a State must still either – (1) collect and publicly report the required enrollment data relative to students who enroll in an in-state public IHE, or (2) demonstrate that it has the capacity to collect and report such data.
- The deadline for meeting the alternative standard is December 31, 2013. The deadline remains January 31, 2012 for States without approval to use the alternative authority.

Indicator (c)(1 2) – Course Completion Data

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- Indicator (c)(1 2): For students who enroll in an in-state public IHE within 16 months of their high school graduation, the number and percentage of such students who complete at least one year's worth of college credit (applicable to a degree) within two years of enrollment in the in-state public IHE.
- A State meets this requirement by either – (1) collecting and publicly reporting the required data, or (2) demonstrating that it has the capacity to collect and report those data.

Flexibility Request Form

To receive an extension of the January 31, 2012 deadline for complying with the requirements of Indicators (b)(1), (c)(11), and (c)(12), or the authority to use the alternative standard, a State must submit an SFSF flexibility request form that:

- Contains an assurance signed by the Governor and the Chief State School Officer that the State will provide, within 60 days of submitting the request, a revised State plan for meeting the requirements of the applicable indicator(s);
- Identifies which of the additional flexibilities is being sought; and
- Provides a description of the State's current capacity to meet the requirements of the applicable indicator(s).

Submission Instructions

- The Department encourages States to submit a request form by February 17, 2012 but no later than March 2, 2012.
- Email your request form to State.Fiscal.Fund@ed.gov.
- Mail the original and two copies to the Department.

Revised State Plan Requirements

- The revised State plan for a deadline extension or authority to use the alternative standard must include:
 - Timelines, specific milestones, and strategies to meet the requirements of the applicable indicator;
 - Identification of the agency or agencies, including key personnel, responsible for the development and implementation of the revised plan; and
 - An overall budget, including the funding sources, to support the development and implementation of each revised plan.

- The Department will review the plans submitted in support of an extension request for sufficiency.

Flexibility Regarding Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems

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- In response to comments from States, the Department is providing additional flexibility with regard to teacher and principal evaluation descriptors and indicators.
- A State that receives ESEA Flexibility is exempt from complying with the requirements of Descriptors (a)(1) and (a)(2) and Indicators (a)(3) through (a)(7) because such a State is committed to implementing rigorous teacher and principal evaluation and support systems.
- This exemption is automatic for any State that receives ESEA Flexibility.

Other Provisions

- States are now required to collect and publicly report only once (rather than annually) data on the following SFSF indicators:
 - (c)(1) through (c)(9) – standards and assessment indicators; and
 - (d)(1) through (d)(6) – supporting struggling schools indicators.
- In future discretionary grant competitions, the Department could give a priority to States that fully develop and implement an SLDS by the applicable deadline (December 31, 2013 for States with an approved extension request and January 31, 2012 for other States).

Accountability

- The Department will soon begin its second cycle of monitoring State implementation of the SFSF program.
- We will focus our monitoring efforts on ensuring State compliance with the MOE provisions, fiscal oversight, and progress in the four reform areas.
- As in first monitoring cycle, the reviews will be an iterative process.

Accountability, continued

- In the near future, the Department will collect from each State the location where the State publicly reports (e.g., website) the data and other information required under each indicator or descriptor with a January 31, 2012 deadline.
- The Department will review each State's submission to ensure that it has met the requirements.
- The Department may take enforcement actions against States that fail to comply with the SFSF data collection and reporting requirements.

Additional Resources

- The Final Rule and Notice of final revisions, and SFSF flexibility request form, are available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/legislation.html>
- The November 12, 2009 Federal Register notice in which the Department initially established the requirements for the SFSF indicators and descriptors is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/finrule/2009-4/111209a.pdf>
- A summary of the indicators and descriptors can be found at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/summary-requirements.doc>
- FERPA information is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpc/index.html>