



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 10, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. *V. Keesler*
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

Joseph A. Martineau, Ph.D. *J. Martineau*
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period for One-Year Extension Request to Michigan's
Approved ESEA Flexibility

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved Michigan's request for flexibility in implementing certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Michigan's approved ESEA Flexibility Request expires at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

This flexibility approval allows local school districts more freedom in how they use some federal dollars to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps; recognizes schools that are meeting or exceeding achievement goals; ensures that all students have access to effective educators; and includes a new accountability scorecard to measure student achievement and growth in schools and districts. Moreover, the approved ESEA flexibility alleviates the impending consequences of the NCLB requirement that 100% of students demonstrate academic proficiency by 2014, replacing the mandate and subsequent consequences with an appropriate timeline and targeted supports to meet student growth and proficiency goals.

USED has provided a process for states to apply for a one-year extension to approved ESEA Flexibility Requests. The process requires Michigan to amend its approved request to respond to all "next steps" identified in its ESEA Flexibility Part B Monitoring report. The process also allows for the request of additional amendments.

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In order to provide continued flexibility to schools and districts as described above through the 2014-2015 school year, Michigan plans to submit its request for a one-year extension to USED on April 29, 2014. This request includes nine amendments required by "next steps" identified in the Part B Monitoring Report and two additional amendments developed in response to consistent stakeholder feedback over the course of ESEA Flexibility implementation.

The proposed one-year extension request and an overview of the proposed amendments, including a detailed explanation of the purpose and impact of proposed scorecard changes, is available for review and public comment at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_60094---,00.html.

Information on USED's process for states to request a one-year extension and a copy of Michigan's ESEA Flexibility Part B Monitoring Report are also available at the website linked above.

Public comment will be open through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18, 2014.

All comments should be submitted to ESEAFlexibility@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance