



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

July 24, 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). The initial approval was granted through the 2013-14 school year. Michigan has been working with USED through this spring and summer to secure a one-year extension of its approved request for the 2014-15 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.

In order to provide continued flexibility to schools and districts as described above through the 2014-2015 school year, Michigan initially submitted its request for a one-year extension to USED on April 29, 2014. The USED has requested an additional submission based on issues identified and addressed as part of the

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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extension process prior to making a final determination to grant Michigan a one-year extension of its approved ESEA flexibility request.

The amended proposal for a one-year extension request and an overview of the additional proposed amendment is available for review and public comment at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_60094---,00.html.

Public comment will be open through 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2014.

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

cc: Michigan Education Alliance