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Illinois State Board of Education



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Key Points of Illinois' Elementary and Secondary Education Act Waiver Application

Priorities and goals

- The state's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver application aligns with Illinois' long-range education priorities and goals.
- Illinois' waiver application provides a comprehensive, interconnected plan for education in our state in four critical areas:
 - Implementation of the state's college- and career-ready standards and assessments;
 - new, strong accountability systems;
 - teacher and principal evaluation and support; and
 - removal of unnecessary or burdensome state rules and regulations.

Accountability

- States have been working together to develop the foundation of a system of accountability that builds on other state-led efforts, including college- and career-ready standards and related assessments.
- No Child Left Behind's one-size-fits-all approach has proven ineffective as a mechanism for accountability and, as a result, has stifled state efforts to improve student achievement and make progress.
- The waivers are providing states with the flexibility they need to establish rigorous, high-quality accountability systems that support schools and districts, and provide students with the interventions they need to improve.
- The waivers are an opportunity to strengthen accountability and put in place the right conditions for schools and teachers to do their jobs most effectively. This is not a retreat from accountability.
- While the administration is providing a much needed temporary fix, improved accountability must ultimately be incorporated into an improved Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Congress must quickly pass legislation that establishes rigorous education goals, but gives states and districts the flexibility to determine the means of achieving them.

Adequate Yearly Progress

- Multiple measures will encompass three areas for a Composite Score: Outcomes, Progress and Environment.

- The state will identify more appropriate Annual Measurable Objectives (Targets). Proposing a set of AMOs in annual equal increments toward a goal of reducing by half the percentage of students in the “all students” group and in each subgroup who are not proficient within six years. Current proficiency rates based on assessments administered in the 2010-11 school year will be the starting point for setting AMOs.

Teacher/ Principal Evaluation

- Waiver allows for greater district flexibility in employment matters (dismissals, reductions in force etc.).
- Waiver allows for increased improvement of instruction by targeting professional development in areas most needed by teachers.
- Waiver allows for greater state control over quality of instruction by allowing the State Superintendent to take sanctions against under-performing teachers;
- Waiver allows for greatly increased public input and stakeholder guidance.

English Language Learners

- The new edition of the WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards will ensure connections between content and language standards.
- English Language Development Standards (ELDS) materials and resources available online and professional development will be delivered through the Statewide ELL Professional Development contract and/or the WIDA consortia professional development days awarded under the master Illinois WIDA Assessment contract.