



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

October 2, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Intent to Request Additional Time to Incorporate Student Growth on State Assessments for One Year

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle:

This letter serves to formally notify you of South Carolina's intent to request flexibility to delay inclusion of student growth on State assessments in evaluation and support systems during the transition to new assessments aligned with college- and career- ready standard in its 2015–16 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Renewal Request. Based on guidance provided by the United States Department of Education, we understand that your letter dated August 21, 2014, regarding Teacher and Leader Evaluation and Support Systems allows South Carolina to proceed with using this data, for informational purposes only, during the 2014–15 school year; however, a formal request must be submitted and approved during the 2015–16 ESEA Flexibility renewal period.

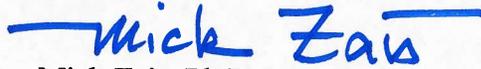
In accordance with your August 21, 2014, letter, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) hereby makes the following assurances:

- In addition to continuing to implement South Carolina's educator evaluation systems using multiple measures of student growth, the SCDE or its LEAs will calculate student growth data based on State assessments during the transition year for all teachers of tested grades and subjects, in order to ensure and improve the SCDE's and/or its LEAs' capacity to make these calculations in an accurate manner going forward; and
- Each teacher of a tested grade and subject and all principals will receive their student growth data based on State assessments for the 2014-15 school year in order to provide educators with all available information and build a deeper understanding of the information and its uses.

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If you have any questions, or if additional information is needed, please contact the SCDE's ESEA contact, Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, at (803) 734-7078, khawkins@ed.sc.gov.

Sincerely,



Mick Zais, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

cc: Elizabeth Ann Witt, Ph.D., Department Team Leader, Title II, Part A Program
Cindy Van Buren, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent, SCDE Division of School Effectiveness
Karla McLawhorn Hawkins, SCDE Deputy General Counsel