



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

February 27, 2020

Frank Brogan  
Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Brogan:

Included in this correspondence, please find South Carolina's proposed amendments to its Consolidated Plan as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Included in this submission are a redlined version of the approved consolidated plan reflective of South Carolina's proposed changes, applicable signatures on the cover page, a chart that displays amendments listed by the relevant section number, and this cover letter that both describes the proposed changes and how the state provided the public a reasonable opportunity to comment on the plan.

**Proposed Changes to South Carolina's Consolidated ESSA Plan**

The revision to South Carolina's Consolidated Plan is the result of a legislative change that occurred with the *2019–20 South Carolina Appropriations Act*. By proviso to the state budget, the South Carolina General Assembly reduced science summative assessments to grades 4 and 6 for elementary and middle schools and removed social studies summative assessments for elementary and middle school. For additional information, please see a [memorandum](#) dated December 19, 2019.

As one of the School Quality/Student Success metrics, South Carolina had heretofore used science and social studies in its accountability system for elementary and middle schools. South

January 19, 2021

Carolina's educational accountability system is vested within the State Superintendent, the State Board of Education, and the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). On December 9, 2019, the EOC voted to allocate the applicable points for science and social studies solely to science summative assessment ratings for elementary and middle schools (note: There were no changes to the high school system). This redlined version has removed social studies assessments for elementary and middle school references throughout the document, since those assessments are not currently being administered.

In addition, there was small clarification with the state's growth metric. In summer 2019, the state obtained a new vendor to assist with the data collection and calculation. Finally, a few scrivener's errors were corrected.

### **Public Opportunity for Comment**

South Carolina continues to offer extensive opportunity for public comment on its Consolidated ESSA Plan. First, South Carolina published the proposed revisions to its website. Second, South Carolina continues to have available a survey asking the public (including educators) to provide feedback. Through this survey portal, South Carolina receives ongoing comments related to its Consolidated ESSA Plan. Staff from the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) continue to make numerous presentations to a wide variety of constituents. Staff from the EOC and the SCDE provide ongoing training seminars to educators and community members around South Carolina and receive feedback. The SCDE has monitored its social media for any comments as well. Finally, the SCDE and the EOC receive e-mails and telephone calls with recommendations. Through all these efforts, South Carolina continues to actively engage the public in a variety of settings through a variety of media truly to make public comment a critical component of its plan.

The SCDE looks forward to your review and approval of South Carolina's proposed amendments and stands ready to provide any additional detail or clarification you need. If you have any questions, please contact me at 803-734-0301, or by e-mail at [jrpayne@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jrpayne@ed.sc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John R. Payne", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John R. Payne, Deputy State Superintendent  
Division of Federal Programs and Accountability