



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Jeff Riley
Commissioner of Education
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148-4906

April 22, 2020

Dear Commissioner Riley:

Thank you for submitting the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) application for the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority (IADA) authorized in section 1204 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). I appreciate the work of you and your team to develop this IADA proposal.

As you know, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) conducted, as required by the statute, a peer review of DESE's application. Peer reviewers examined the application using the program requirements and selection criteria described in 34 CFR §§ 200.105 and 200.106. On April 10, 2020, the Department requested additional information based on our review of the peer feedback and our own analysis of Massachusetts's application. DESE provided this additional information on April 20, 2020.

After reviewing the initial application and DESE's additional information, I am pleased to approve DESE to implement the innovative assessments described in its application in accordance with section 1204 of the ESEA and 34 CFR §§ 200.104-200.108. DESE may exercise this authority through the 2024-2025 school year. DESE must ensure that all students in grades five, eight and once in high school are assessed on either an innovative science assessment or the State's science assessments under section 1111(b)(2)(B) of the ESEA and include the results in accountability determinations, as applicable, in accordance with sections 1111(c) and (d) of the ESEA. I congratulate you on receiving this authority to explore innovative ways to better assess student achievement in Massachusetts.

Thank you for the important work that you and your staff are doing to support the innovation that is possible through the ESEA. The Department looks forward to working with you and learning from you as you implement Massachusetts' innovative assessments. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at:

ESEA.Assessment@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan
Assistant Secretary
for Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Sam Ribnick, Innovative Assessments and Data

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