



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Carmen I. Ayala  
State Superintendent of Education  
Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Superintendent Ayala:

I am writing in response to your letter on October 30, 2020, requesting to waive, for the 2020-2021 school year, the requirement in section 4201(b)(1)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) that restricts activities provided by a program funded under the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) program to activities provided only during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session (such as before and after school or during summer recess). You are requesting this waiver to provide flexibility for your subgrantees to address challenges this school year due to the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

After reviewing Illinois' request, I am pleased to approve, pursuant to my authority under section 8401(b) of the ESEA, a waiver of the requirement in section 4201(b)(1)(A) of the ESEA for the 2020-2021 school year. This waiver enables you to approve a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC subgrantee in your State to provide supplemental activities when school is in session but students are not receiving in-person instruction, such as by permitting a teacher to provide additional academic supports during remote learning. As part of this waiver, Illinois assures that it will use, and ensure that its subgrantees use, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds in accordance with all other provisions of Title IV, Part B of the ESEA and all applicable regulations, program plans, and applications.

I know that you are doing all in your power to support your 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs in districts, schools, and communities to ensure the health and well-being of students, educators, and 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC staff. The U.S. Department of Education is committed to continuing to support you. If you have any questions about this waiver, please contact my staff at [21stCCLC@ed.gov](mailto:21stCCLC@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan  
Assistant Secretary  
for Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Kristy Jones, Supervisor, Wellness Department