



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

January 4, 2022

The Honorable Eric Mackey
Superintendent of Education
Alabama Department of Education
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Superintendent Mackey:

I am writing in response to the Alabama's requests to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) on March 30, August 25, October 26, 2021, and December 1, 2021 to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. Prior to implementing any revisions to its approved consolidated State plan, a State must submit its proposed amendments to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) for review and approval.

I have determined that the amended request meets the requirements in the ESEA and, for this reason, I am approving Alabama's amended State plan. A summary of Alabama's amendment is enclosed. This letter, as well as Alabama's revised ESEA consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website. Any further requests to amend Alabama's ESEA consolidated State plan must be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

As a reminder, Alabama assured in its request to waive accountability, school identification, and related reporting requirements for school year 2020-2021 that it will next identify schools for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement in fall 2022 based on its system of annual meaningful differentiation for school year 2021-2022.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment to Alabama's consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the amended State plan comply with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is Alabama's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

Thank you for all of the work that the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has put into its consolidated State plan under the ESEA. If you need any assistance regarding the implementation of your ESEA consolidated State plan, please contact the Office of School Support and Accountability at: OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov

Sincerely,

/s/

Ian Rosenblum
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs
Delegated the Authority to Perform the
Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Paul Bonner, ALSDE
Molly Killingsworth, ALSDE
Jean Scott, ALSDE
Shanthia Washington, ALSDE

Amendment to the Alabama Consolidated State Plan

The following is a summary of Alabama's amendment request. Please refer to the Department's website <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/> for Alabama's complete consolidated State plan.

Title I, Part A of the ESEA: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies

- *Native Language Assessments*
Alabama updated its plan to indicate that it now offers Spanish language versions of its statewide summative mathematics and science assessments.
- *English Language Proficiency (ELP) Long Term Goals*
Alabama described new work it is doing in partnership with the Region 7 Comprehensive Center and Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast to develop an English learner (EL) framework to further support the improvement of ELs in Alabama.
- *Academic Achievement Indicator*
Alabama updated its methodology for calculating student growth for public high schools to indicate that it will be using Pre-ACT scores rather than ACT Aspire scores. Thus, the State will be comparing a student's ACT score in 11th grade against the student's Pre-ACT scores in 10th grade.
- *Other Academic Indicator*
Alabama updated its methodology for calculating student growth for elementary and secondary schools that are not high schools. It now measures growth from the spring administration of the prior year to the spring administration of the current year, using the State's summative assessments, the ACAP. Alabama also removed language about its prior plans for a request for bids related to procuring a new statewide assessment system because this work is complete and the State's new summative assessments are now operational.
- *SQSS Indicator(s)*
Alabama added two new options to its six existing options for demonstrating college and career readiness for its College and Career Readiness indicator: completing a career and technical education (CTE) program of study or completing an in-school youth apprenticeship.
- *TSI-Additional Targeted*
Alabama updated its plan to next identify schools for additional targeted support and improvement in the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, consistent with the State's approved waiver of accountability, school identification, and related reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.

- *Annual Measurement of Achievement*
Alabama changed its description of how it calculates its Academic Achievement indicator. For the numerator, the State will include all students with a valid test score on the assessment. For the denominator, the State will use the greater of 95 percent of all students (or all students in a subgroup), or the number of students participating in the assessment.
- *Disproportionate Rate of Access to Educators*
Alabama added new information on its efforts to recruit, hire, and retain effective teachers and leaders.
- *Technical Assistance*
Alabama updated the supports that will be provided to schools identified for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement.

Title IV, Part B of the ESEA: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

- *Awarding 21st Century Community Learning Center Subgrants*
Alabama updated its procedures for awarding 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) subgrants, including utilizing an electronic system to facilitate the peer review and rank applications.

Title VII, Subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: Education for Homeless Children and Youth

- *Support for School Personnel*
Alabama updated its information about the trainings it provides twice per year for LEA personnel. Please note that the Department's approval of the amendment to the plan does not indicate any evaluation or endorsement of any vendors, contractors or subgrantees mentioned in the plan.