



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

January 7, 2022

The Honorable Kurt Steinhaus
Secretary of Education
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501-2786

Dear Secretary Steinhaus:

In the letter approving the New Mexico Public Education Department's (NMPED's) American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) State plan, dated July 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) placed a condition on NMPED's ARP ESSER grant. Specifically, NMPED indicated that it did not have evidence or data to demonstrate that it meaningfully consulted with stakeholders representing the interests of children and youth in foster care, as required in the Department's [interim final requirements](#) and described in section C.1 of the ARP ESSER State template. As a result, the condition required NMPED to amend its ARP ESSER State plan to describe how it continued to engage in meaningful consultation specifically with stakeholders representing the interests of children and youth in foster care and to incorporate their feedback into its ARP ESSER State plan.

On September 3, 2021, NMPED submitted an updated ARP ESSER State plan addressing the condition by describing additional consultation with stakeholders representing the interests of children and youth in foster care. As a result, I am removing the condition from NMPED's ARP ESSER grant. This letter and the updated plan will be posted on the Department's State Plans website [here](#).

Thank you for your efforts, and the efforts of your staff, to implement the ARP ESSER program and to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, educators, and staff during the pandemic. We look forward to continuing our work with you to support the education of students in New Mexico. If you have any questions, please contact your program officer at: NewMexico.OESE@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Rosenblum".

Ian Rosenblum
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education