



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner

Christine M. Brennan
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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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March 9, 2022

Dr. Donald Peasley
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Dr. Peasley,

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) is providing the U.S. Department of Education (USED) with an update on its implementation of the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority (IADA) under Section 1204 of the Every Student Succeeds Act in school year (SY) 2021-2022 at USED's request.

NHDOE was first afforded flexibilities to implement its Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE) learning, assessment, and accountability system under IADA in SY 2018-2019, which it had begun piloting through USED-granted flexibilities and in partnership with local education agencies (LEAs) in SY 2014-2015. The development of PACE was grounded in growing and utilizing educator knowledge in assessment. NHDOE's initial goal in applying for and implementing its IADA flexibilities was to build the evidence to support making PACE available statewide for accountability purposes.

Unfortunately, PACE assessment task development, implementation, and scoring placed significant administrative burden on educators and school leaders that detracted from instructional time and was costly to implement. PACE also fell short of expectations for comparability and assessment quality.

Beginning in SY 2019-2020, NHDOE postponed implementation of its IADA flexibilities due to concerns with PACE assessment task administration, data collection and management, and the resulting validity of PACE assessment results. After extensive review of PACE implementation and careful discussion with partnering LEAs, New Hampshire's Accountability Task Force, and New Hampshire's Assessment Technical Advisory Committee, the NHDOE has decided to fully withdraw from participation in the IADA.

To ensure that the growth in competency-based instruction and assessment literacy are sustained, NHDOE and partnering LEAs have continued to leverage PACE to improve the quality and utility of local formative assessments, although PACE will no longer be a part of New Hampshire's accountability system. NHDOE continues to ensure PACE resources developed under IADA are universally available on

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its Canvas statewide learning management system. Additionally, NHDOE has supported an educator community of practice focused on supporting a student-centered learning and assessment system for local reciprocal accountability that supports participants in evolving PACE to meet their community and classroom needs.

NHDOE is committed to ensuring that individual student needs in mastering rigorous standards drives instruction. New Hampshire continues to pursue improvements to its assessment and accountability system, including through computer adaptive assessments utilizing technology-enhanced performance items and automated scoring. We look forward to pursuing future opportunities to innovate in assessment in partnership with USED.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Edelblut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "Edelblut" clearly distinguishable.

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education