



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Tiffany Sanderson  
Secretary of Education  
South Dakota Department of Education  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2291

Dear Secretary Sanderson:

I am writing in response to South Dakota's request on March 21, 2022, to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), using the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum (Addendum). South Dakota requested these amendments to account for short-term changes to its system of annual meaningful differentiation for school year 2021-2022 due to extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the waivers the Department granted South Dakota from the accountability requirements of the ESEA for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and the assessment requirements for the 2019-2020 school year.

Specifically, South Dakota requested the short-term amendments to:

- Shift forward long-term goals and measurements of progress for academic achievement, graduation rate, and progress in achieving English language proficiency by two years.
- Calculate the Academic Achievement indicator using data from one year (2021-2022) rather than calculating a three-year average.
- Modify the reporting of school performance by continuing to publish school status (i.e., whether or not a school is identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement) and publishing the performance of a school on each indicator. South Dakota will calculate and provide the complete School Performance Index (SPI) score to schools but will not include SPI scores in public reporting of school performance.

I am approving South Dakota's changes to its ESEA consolidated State plan. This letter and South Dakota's approved Addendum for the 2021-2022 school year will be posted on the Department's website along with the currently approved version of South Dakota's ESEA consolidated State plan (available at: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/>). Because I am approving changes through the Addendum that are not limited to the 2021-2022 school year (i.e., shifted long-term goals and measurements of interim progress), the State must submit an updated ESEA consolidated State plan that incorporates those approved changes at a later date.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment to South Dakota'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

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

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

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 South Dakota's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

I know that you are doing all in your power to support your districts and schools to ensure the health and well-being of students and educators. Thank you for your dedication to this effort. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at [OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov](mailto:OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

James F. Lane, Ed.D.  
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary  
Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and  
Duties of the Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Jordan Varilek, Administrator, Office of Title Programs  
Matt Gill, Administrator, Office of Assessment and Accountability  
Shannon Malone, Director, Learning & Instruction