



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Jill Underly  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
125 S. Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Superintendent Underly:

I am writing in response to Wisconsin's request on March 7, 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). Wisconsin requested these amendments to account for short-term changes in school year 2021-2022 due to extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the waivers the Department granted Wisconsin 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, Wisconsin requested the amendments to:

- Shift forward long-term goals for academic achievement, graduation rate, and progress in achieving English language proficiency by two years.
- Calculate its Academic Achievement indicator based on only on one year of data from school year 2021-2022.
- Calculate its Other Academic indicator for elementary and secondary schools that are not high schools and Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency indicator based on data from school years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.
- Calculate its chronic absenteeism School Quality or Student Success Indicator using only one year of data.
- Use data from school years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 when implementing its system of annual meaningful differentiation for schools for which an accountability determination otherwise cannot be made.
- Identify schools for targeted support and improvement due to consistently underperforming subgroups in fall 2022 based on one year of data rather than using two consecutive years of data.
- Omit school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 when determining whether the school has met the statewide exit criteria for comprehensive and additional targeted support and improvement.

I am approving Wisconsin's changes to its ESEA consolidated State plan. This letter and Wisconsin's approved Addendum for the 2021-2022 school year will be posted on the Department's website along with the currently approved version of Wisconsin's ESEA consolidated State plan (available at:

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa->

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.*

[consolidated-state-plans/](#)). Because I am approving changes through the Addendum that are not limited to the 2021-2022 school year (e.g., shifted school identification timeline), 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 Wisconsin’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 Wisconsin’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: Jonas Zuckerman, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction