



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

July 25, 2022

The Honorable Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education
New Hampshire Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Edelblut:

I am writing in response to New Hampshire's request on June 22, 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). New Hampshire requested these amendments to account for short-term changes to its system of annual meaningful differentiation for the 2021-2022 school year due to extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the waivers the Department granted New Hampshire 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, New Hampshire requested the amendments to:

- Shift forward long-term goals for academic achievement and progress in achieving English language proficiency by two years.
- Raise the cut scores used to award a school a score from 1-4 for the Academic Achievement and Other Academic indicators.
- After identifying schools in fall 2022, make a one-time change in frequency to identify schools again in fall 2023 for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) and additional targeted support and improvement (ATSI).
- Omit the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years when determining whether a school has met the statewide exit criteria for CSI and ATSI.
- For previously identified CSI schools, revise the exit criteria for fall 2022 to require a school to not be among the lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools in fall 2022 and exceed, in the 2021-2022 school year, the school's performance at the time of identification on each indicator.
- For previously identified ATSI schools, revise the exit criteria for fall 2022 to require sub-group performance on indicators to exceed the performance on the indicators at the time of identification.

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

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<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.

Addendum that are not limited to the 2021-2022 school year (e.g., shifted long-term goals and 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 New Hampshire’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 New Hampshire’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.

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: Dr. Nate Greene, Bureau Administrator