September 19, 2022

Dear Chief State School Officer:

I am writing to provide information regarding the process for submitting an amendment to section D, Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students, of your approved American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) State plan. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) expects that States may need to revise and strengthen this section of their State plans to better address the evolving educational needs of children as you lead academic recovery efforts.

Specifically, a State that intends to implement different or additional evidence-based interventions than those currently approved in the ARP ESSER State plan in sections D.1 (evidence-based interventions to address the academic impact of lost instructional time), D.2 (evidence-based summer enrichment), or D.3 (evidence-based afterschool programs) must submit its proposed amendments to the Department for review and approval per section 2001(f) of the ARP Act. Because required descriptions in the other sections of the State plan relate to needs and strategies at the time of submission, rather than ongoing needs and strategies, States need not amend any sections of its ARP ESSER State plan other than to account for any changes to the evidence-based interventions described in section D.

Consistent with 34 CFR § 76.141, in preparing an amendment to section D of its State plan, a State must use the procedures that it used to prepare and submit the initial plan. Accordingly, prior to submitting an amendment, a State must:

- Engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, students; families; Tribes (if applicable); civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); school and district administrators (including special education administrators); superintendents; charter school leaders (if applicable); teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students; and

- Provide the public the opportunity to provide input and take such input into account.

The Department intends to process any such State plan amendments as efficiently as possible, in a way that is least burdensome for States. When submitting an amendment to the Department for approval, please submit a redlined version of section D of the approved State plan that reflects all proposed changes under section D and the signature of the chief State school officer or authorized representative. The Department will review the amendment and provide feedback as quickly as possible.
Thank you for your continued work to implement the American Rescue Plan and provide a high-quality education to all your students. Please submit any questions and amendment requests to your State and Grantee Relations program officer at ESSERF@ed.gov and your State mailbox (State.OESE@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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