



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

July 3, 2014

The Honorable Robert Hammond
Commissioner of Education
Colorado Department of Education
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Commissioner Hammond:

This letter is a response to Colorado's March 10, 2014 request for a one-year extension of flexibility under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA flexibility), so that Colorado may continue to implement ESEA flexibility through the end of the 2014–2015 school year.

Our team has reviewed Colorado's request and, pursuant to section 9401(d)(2) of the ESEA, I am pleased to extend Colorado's ESEA flexibility request for one year, through the end of the 2014–2015 school year. My decision to extend Colorado's ESEA flexibility request is based on my determination that ESEA flexibility has been effective in enabling Colorado to carry out important reforms to improve student achievement and that this extension is in the public interest. Colorado's approved request will be posted on the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) website.

This extension is subject to Colorado's commitment to continue working with ED on Colorado's requested changes in its teacher and principal evaluation and support systems, which may require additional flexibility. Colorado has also submitted high-quality plans to meet certain next steps identified during Part B monitoring, as part of satisfying the requirement that it resolve these next steps. Colorado's progress in implementing its high-quality plans during the 2014–2015 school year, as well as Colorado's continued work with ED on its requested changes will inform ED's decision regarding renewal of Colorado's ESEA flexibility after the 2014–2015 school year. Please note that approval of Colorado's one-year extension request for the 2014–2015 school year does not constitute approval of Colorado's school and local educational agency accountability system as modified by House Bill (HB) 1182 for the 2015–2016 school year. Colorado must amend its ESEA flexibility request to reflect any needed changes as a result of HB 1182 and submit those amendments to ED for review and approval.

Colorado continues to have an affirmative responsibility to ensure that it and its districts are in compliance with Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in their implementation of ESEA flexibility. These laws include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the

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<http://www.ed.gov/>

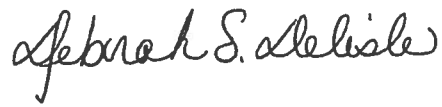
The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I am confident that Colorado will continue to implement the reforms described in its approved ESEA flexibility request and advance its efforts to hold schools and school districts accountable for the achievement of all students. If you need any additional assistance to implement your ESEA flexibility request, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Jenkins at: amy.jenkins@ed.gov or Alecia Walters at alecia.walters@ed.gov.

Thank you for your commitment and continued focus on enhancing education for all of Colorado's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah S. Delisle".

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

cc: Pat Chapman, Executive Director of Federal Programs Administration