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ESEA Flexibility

Overview

The U.S. Department of Education is inviting each State educational agency (SEA) to request flexibility on behalf of itself, its local educational agencies, and schools, in order to better focus on improving student learning and increasing the quality of instruction. This voluntary opportunity will provide educators and State and local leaders with flexibility regarding specific requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive State-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

News

- [Press Release: Obama Administration Sets High Bar for Flexibility from NCLB in Order to Advance Equity and Support Reform \(/news/press-releases/obama-administration-sets-high-bar-flexibility-no-child-left-behind-order-advanc\)](#) (Sep 23, 2011)
- [What ESEA Flexibility Means for Students, Teachers, and Parents: Answering the Public's Questions \(/esea/flexibility/documents/esea-flexibility-faqs.doc\)](#) [MS Word, 61KB]
- Bringing Flexibility and Focus to Education Law: [Looking Back and Moving Forward \(/esea/flexibility/documents/looking-back-moving-forward.pdf\)](#) [PDF, 127KB] and [Supporting State and Local Progress \(/esea/flexibility/documents/supporting-state-local-progress.pdf\)](#) [PDF, 139KB]

ESEA Flexibility Documents

- [Letter to Chief State School Officers from Secretary Duncan \(http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/quid/secletter/110923.html\)](#)
- [ESEA Flexibility \(/esea/flexibility/documents/esea-flexibility.doc\)](#) [MS Word, 1.8MB]
- [ESEA Flexibility Request \(/esea/flexibility/documents/esea-flexibility-request.doc\)](#) [MS Word, 1.9MB]

Timeline to Submit Requests

SEAs will have multiple opportunities to submit requests for flexibility. In order to provide flexibility to SEAs by the end of the 2011–2012 school year, there are two windows in which an SEA may submit its request:

- Submit requests by **November 14, 2011** for December peer review
- Submit requests by **mid-February, 2012** for a Spring 2012 review

SEAs should notify the Department, by October 12, 2011, of their intent to request ESEA Flexibility, including the submission window in which they intend to submit their request. Please send the notice of intent as well as SEA requests for flexibility to ESEAFlexibility@ed.gov (<mailto:ESEAFlexibility@ed.gov>).

Questions

If you have questions regarding ESEA Flexibility that are not answered in the attached documents, or as SEA teams you would like to schedule a time to speak with Department staff about ESEA flexibility requests, please contact us at ESEAFlexibility@ed.gov (<mailto:ESEAFlexibility@ed.gov>).

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