



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Commissioner of Education
President of the University of the State of New York
89 Washington Avenue, Room 111
Albany, New York 12234

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August 29, 2025

Hayley B. Sanon
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202
ESEA.Assessment@ed.gov

RE: New York State's (NYS) Plan to Come into Compliance with the Requirement of Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 that Limits the Percentage of Students that a State May Assess with an Alternate Assessment Based on Alternate Academic Achievement Standards (AA-AAAS) to No More Than 1.0 Percent

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Sanon:

This is in response to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) 2025 Grant Award Notification (GAN) for Title I, Part A (new award, S010A250032) dated July 1, 2025. As indicated in the GAN, the NYSED grant award is subject to the special conditions identified in Attachment T – Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, including the condition placed on the NYSED Title I Part A grant award relating to the requirement of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, that limits the percentage of students that a state may assess with an AA-AAAS to no more than 1.0 percent of all assessed students in the grades assessed in a state for each subject.

The NYSED Updated 2025 Plan for Compliance with New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) 1.0 Percent Cap includes the action steps taken based on our focused areas of improvement. While the NYSED Updated 2024 Plan outlined our approach to reduce the rate of AA-AAAS participation to comply with the 1.0 percent requirement, the NYSED Updated 2025 Plan includes the revised guidance materials that were released to the field and made publicly available on the NYSED website in March of 2025. Rates of AA-AAAS participation have steadily decreased since 2019 in all three subject areas.

NYSED remains committed to ensuring the vast majority of NYS students are taking the State's general assessments and the NYS AA-AAAS is administered only to those students with the most severe cognitive disabilities and expects the above outlined efforts will continue to further reduce NYSAA participation rates and demonstrate our progress toward meeting the 1.0 percent requirement under the ESEA. Please feel free to contact Christopher Suriano, Associate Commissioner of the Office of Special Education by phone at (518) 473-3353 or email to christopher.suriano@nysed.gov should you have any questions regarding the NYSED Updated 2025 Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty A. Rosa", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Betty A. Rosa
Commissioner

Enclosure

c: Dr. Jeffrey Matteson
Ceylane Meyers-Ruff
Jason Harmon
Angelique Johnson-Dingle
Christina Coughlin
Christopher Suriano
David Frank
Zachary Warner
Theresa Billington
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