

OFFICE OF CHIEF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
February 19-20, 2015

OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

06. Discussion of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Renewal Process

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request exempts our state from many of the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* and provides flexibility for improving outcomes for children across Mississippi. Mississippi's current ESEA Flexibility Request expires at the end of this school year, so the state must apply for renewal by March 31, 2015, to implement the Flexibility Request for an additional three years.

The Request Renewal waives a total of fourteen separate components of NCLB, including two new waiver options:

- Title I 1003a funds, currently restricted to use in Priority and Focus schools, may be used in other Title I schools not meeting AMOs, if the needs of Priority and Focus schools are met first
- Students who take advanced, high school level coursework before high school (i.e., eighth graders enrolled in Algebra I) are not required to take two tests in one year if the student will take an additional advanced, high school mathematics assessment during high school.

If Mississippi does not apply to continue the waiver of NCLB, then schools will be required to resume complying with all ESEA requirements beginning with the 2015-16 school year, including the following:

- making adequate yearly progress determinations (with the immediate target of 100% proficiency);
- identifying schools and districts for improvement; and
- taking all required improvement actions, including offering and paying for supplemental educational services and transportation for public school choice, as required by Title I of ESEA.

No Action: Discussion Only

Back-up material attached

ESEA Flexibility Renewal

State Board of Education

February 19-20, 2015





ESEA Flexibility: Overview

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request exempts our state from many of the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and provides flexibility for improving outcomes for children across Mississippi.

ESEA Flexibility: Overview

- **Core Principles**
 - College- and career-ready expectations for all students
 - Differentiated recognition, accountability, and support systems for schools and districts
 - Supporting effective instruction and leadership
 - Reducing duplication and unnecessary burden
- **Mississippi's Request webpage:**
<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/federal-programs/the-esea-flexibility-waiver>

ESEA Flexibility: Timeline to Date

- **2012:** ESEA Flexibility **waiver** approved for two years, through the end of the 2013-14 school year
- **2014:** One-year **extension** valid through the end of the 2014-15 school year
 - Incorporated the single accountability system and
 - Updated educator evaluation components
- **2015:** *Three-year **renewal** through the 2017-18 school year*
 - Requested using the [ESEA Flexibility Renewal Form](#)



ESEA Flexibility Renewal: Changes for 2015

- **New waivers** that Mississippi may request
 - Title I 1003a funds can be used for other Title I schools not meeting AMOs **if** Priority and Focus have sufficient funds to implement interventions. (Waiver 13)
 - *Requires a demonstrated plan to fund Priority and Focus schools sufficiently before funding other schools*
 - Students who take advanced, high school level, coursework before high school are not required to take two tests in one year **if** the student will take an additional advanced, high school level, mathematics assessment during high school. (Waiver 14)
 - *Requires a statewide assessment contract for an advanced mathematics course beyond Algebra I*



ESEA Flexibility Renewal: Changes for 2015, continued

- **New assurances** that Mississippi must implement
 - The state **must** update the list of priority and focus schools, identified based on school year 2014-2015 data, no later than January 31, 2016, and school must begin implementation in the 2016-2017 school year. (Assurance 8)
 - The guidelines allow for a pause for all schools of the school grading system for one year, but **require** the identification of priority and focus based upon the 2014-2015 data. (FAQ E-3, E-6)



ESEA Flexibility Renewal: Changes for 2015, continued

- New questions in ESEA Flexibility Renewal Form
 - Principle 1: State **must** describe how it will continue to ensure all students graduate from high school ready for college and a career and will continue to provide supports for all students and teachers.
 - Principle 2:
 - State **must** demonstrate that a school may not receive the highest rating in the accountability system if there are significant achievement or graduation rate gaps (which may be subgroups, but is not required to be subgroups). (2A)
 - State **must** a) update priority/focus list, b) provide a timeline for implementation of interventions, and c) describe process to identify and increase rigor of interventions and supports for priority/focus schools that have not made sufficient progress by the start of the 2015-2016 school year. (2D; 2E)

ESEA Flexibility Renewal: Changes for 2015, continued

- New questions in ESEA Flexibility Renewal Form
 - Principle 2:
 - State **must** update plan for providing incentives and supports to other Title I schools. (2F)
 - State **must** describe its statewide strategy to support and monitor districts' continuous improvement process implementation. (2G)
 - Principle 3. State **must** detail a) progress in implementing high-quality teacher and principal evaluation and support systems, b) proposed changes, and c) steps to ensure continuous improvement of systems.

ESEA Flexibility Renewal: Next Steps

- Garner input on the implementation of ESEA Flexibility and the changes to the request through a variety of stakeholder groups.
- Review Mississippi's most current ESEA Flexibility request for accuracies and adjustments needed
- Address questions in ESEA Flexibility Renewal Form (as reviewed in the previous two slides)
- Submit ESEA Flexibility Renewal Request to ED on or before **March 31, 2015**.



ESEA Flexibility: What if we don't apply?

Mississippi schools will be required to resume complying with all ESEA requirements by the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, including—

- making adequate yearly progress determinations (with the immediate target of 100% proficiency);
- identifying schools and districts for improvement; and
- taking all required improvement actions, including offering and paying for supplemental educational services and transportation for public school choice, as required by Title I of the ESEA.

ESEA Flexibility: What if we don't apply?

- All 146 districts (and 717 Title I schools) would have some of their budgets redirected to address student populations not meeting annual measurable objectives, as no district met 100% proficiency on the last statewide assessment.
- Approximately 74 schools in 51 districts would immediately set restructuring plans in motion. **Restructuring options include state takeover, contracting with a private company to manage the school, or reopening the school as a charter school.**
- The flexibility to blend nearly \$800 million in federal education funds (24% of the state's K-12 education budget) with state dollars on key initiatives would become compromised, thus impacting early childhood education, principal evaluation, and differentiated recognition, accountability, and support.



ESEA Flexibility Renewal: Feedback

- On-line survey
- E-mail to accountability@mde.k12.ms.us
- Fax to (601) 359-5527
- Mail: Office of Accountability (ESEA Feedback)

Mississippi Department of Education

Post Office Box 771

Jackson, MS 39201-0771