



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

January 26, 2021

Dear Chief State School Officer:

Thank you for the hard work that you have done and continue to do to address the extraordinary circumstances facing our Nation's students and educators due to the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

On January 19, 2021, I sent you the final [\*Frequently Asked Questions: Impact of COVID-19 on Accountability Systems Required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 \(ESEA\)\*](#), and accompanying [\*State Plan Addendum\*](#) template, that provide responses to questions that States have raised regarding accountability determinations based on data from the 2020-2021 school year. Question A-3 acknowledged that a State may submit an amendment to its ESEA consolidated State plan at any time but encouraged the State to submit amendment requests by February 1, 2021.

To provide additional time as part of the new Administration's overall review of all policies, the Department is extending the February 1 date referenced in the FAQs for submission of plan amendments, including related requests for waivers. We appreciate your patience and will provide updated information regarding submitting State plan amendments and related requests for waivers as soon as possible. In the meantime, please contact [OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov](mailto:OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ruth E. Ryder  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

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