

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin waiver request approved

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers announced that Wisconsin’s request for waivers from certain provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Wisconsin submitted an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request in February and has been working with the federal education department and the peer review panel since mid-April to clarify details of the plan.

“Wisconsin’s NCLB waiver is an ambitious education reform package. We are setting higher expectations for students, educators, and schools with a clear focus on our graduates being college and career ready.

“Our reform agenda will change academic standards, instructional practices, and assessments; it will more accurately and meaningfully assess and report how our schools are doing; it will recognize schools that are doing well at educating students and closing achievement gaps and will provide support for those schools that need to do better; and it will provide a fair, performance-based evaluation system to ensure students have effective teachers. This reform agenda is based on college and career ready expectations, increased academic rigor, and a multiple measures approach to assessment and accountability for students and schools.

“Many parts of our ESEA waiver are works in progress that will continue to be phased in over the coming years. The first product from our reform agenda, the impact of redefining what it means to be proficient on statewide Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination results, will be ready for school districts and the media in July.

“Development of our waiver has involved hundreds of educators, policymakers, parents, and other education stakeholders. It has been a pleasure working with these various groups, including the School and District Accountability Design Team and my fellow co-chairs Governor Walker, Representative Kestell, and Senator Olsen.”

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NOTE: A copy of Wisconsin’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Request is available at http://dpi.wi.gov/esea/pdf/Wisconsin_ESEA_Waiver_7-3-12.pdf. The waiver summary is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/pdf/waiversummary.pdf>. This statement is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2012_79.pdf.