

February 20, 2015

Dear Colleague:

Wisconsin was awarded initial flexibility from certain provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) by the United States Department of Education (ED) on July 6, 2012. This flexibility was renewed for the 2014-15 school year on August 14, 2014. Existing waivers expire at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

In order to continue to advance the robust educational investment we've made together over the past five years, Wisconsin is applying for ESEA Flexibility Renewal through the 2017-18 school year. I am writing to share with you a draft of Wisconsin's proposed waiver renewal and provide materials to solicit your input on this proposal.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has now opened the public comment period. Information on the renewal can be found at http://esea.dpi.wi.gov/esea_flexibility, including:

- A waiver introduction video
- A short summary of the renewal request
- The full text of the renewal request
- A survey through which you can submit your comments by March 6, 2015

The proposal reflects a continued commitment to the education initiatives already being implemented throughout our state, and will allow us to maintain our focus on improving achievement for all students and graduating students prepared for college and career.

The DPI intends to submit its waiver application to ED by March 31, 2015. Through this comment period, we hope to further engage the citizens of Wisconsin in this discussion so critical to the future of education. We encourage you to share this draft of Wisconsin's proposed waiver renewal and the associated survey with others. Most importantly, we want broad input to ensure that our proposal best meets the needs of Wisconsin's children.

After we receive feedback from you and other educators, parents, and citizens from across the state, we will be revising and refining this draft proposal. Please remember to provide your comments through the survey no later than March 6, 2015.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact eseawaiver@dpi.wi.gov.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson, PhD
Deputy State Superintendent

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