

**From:** Thompson, Michael DPI  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:26 PM  
**To:** Parman, Mary Jo DPI  
**Subject:** ESEA Accountability Waiver Update

Dear Colleague,

DPI submitted our waiver proposal on February 22, and have begun discussing Wisconsin's request for ESEA flexibility with the U.S. Department of Education (ED). I want to provide you with an update on this proposal. We expect to be in conversation with ED over the next several months, as ED has repeatedly told states that this will be an iterative process, with the goal of approving all states that demonstrate compliance with the waiver requirements. Wisconsin's proposal now enters a peer review process.

In our initial conversations with ED, we clarified that we are no longer required to produce adequate yearly progress (AYP) reports and we will no longer be running AYP. We also learned that the timeline for the new statewide accountability system will need to be adjusted to be in compliance with federal requirements. Instead of releasing AYP reports in June, we will be releasing preliminary school report cards using the accountability index outlined in our waiver request. They will be released securely to district administrators. Once the draft report cards are released, districts will have the opportunity to check their data and work with DPI to understand these new accountability reports throughout the summer. We expect to release the report cards publicly in August to remain in compliance with ED regulations.

This is the first of many updates I will be providing. As an iterative process, we must anticipate adjustments and refinements to the proposed accountability system and timeline. These updates will also be posted to this accountability webpage (<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html>) along with our implementation timeline, summary documents, PowerPoint presentations, and complete waiver documentation. We plan to provide sample parent letters explaining the new accountability system, as well as communications to be used with your local media. Should you have questions about the waiver, please contact us at [eseawaiver@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:eseawaiver@dpi.wi.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael J. Thompson, PhD  
Deputy State Superintendent