

# Missouri's ESEA Flexibility Waiver

[dese.mo.gov/qs/esea-waiver](http://dese.mo.gov/qs/esea-waiver)

## What it Means for Education in Missouri

### Benefit to Parents

- Missouri's accountability system focuses on continuous improvement for all students.
- The Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) annual performance report (APR) provides a more complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations and where it is not.

### Benefit to Students

- Students will have higher academic standards preparing them for life after high school.
- The Missouri Learning Standards provide clear expectations for student achievement.
- A super subgroup (or student gap group) includes students otherwise missed in accountability systems ensuring districts are accountable for every student's academic achievement.



### Benefit to School Districts

- Schools will have more flexibility in using federal funds for school improvement.
- Resources will be used more efficiently to identify and support struggling schools.
- Missouri's Model Educator Evaluation System will provide more comprehensive teacher evaluation.



### Benefit to Educators

- The state's Educator Evaluation System model is designed to clearly measure effective practice and provide professional development support for principals, superintendents and teachers.
- The Missouri Learning Standards provide clear and consistent expectations for what all children should know and be able to do.

### Implementation of the Flexibility Waiver

- Identify schools in need of support.
- Determine level and nature of service to each school.
- Prepare for ongoing monitoring by the U.S. Department of Education.

## Waiver Facts

- Missouri's flexibility waiver allows the state to use its own system of accountability to more effectively identify struggling schools, to efficiently direct resources to struggling schools and to recognize exemplary schools.
- The U.S. Department of Education approved Missouri's ESEA waiver on June 29, 2012, giving the state more flexibility to use its own accountability measures in identifying schools that need additional assistance.
- The waiver went into effect immediately for the 2012-2013 school year.
- States who apply for a flexibility waiver must address three main principles:
  - **Principle 1:** College- and career-ready expectations for all students.
  - **Principle 2:** State developed differentiated recognition, accountability and support.
  - **Principle 3:** Supporting effective instruction and leadership.



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