

## Administrative Memo

**DATE:** June 29, 2012  
**TO:** School Administrators, General Assembly and Educational Associations  
**FROM:** Chris Nicastro, Commissioner of Education  
**SUBJECT:** LS-12-004 - Approval of Missouri's NCLB Waiver

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has approved Missouri's application for a waiver from key provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The waiver will take effect with the 2012-2013 school year.

Missouri has long been a leader in education accountability. With the approval of the waiver, Missouri will now be able to focus on its own state-developed education standards and assisting schools in meeting those standards to successfully prepare students for the future.

Missouri's ESEA waiver:

- Implements more rigorous academic standards, more comprehensive teacher evaluation, and ambitious, but achievable, accountability measures.
- Creates one aligned system of accountability, reducing duplication and making more effective and efficient use of resources throughout the state.
- Eliminates the requirement of using 20 percent of Title I funds on supplemental educational services (SES) tutoring programs for students in low-performing schools and returns those funds for school improvement.
- Eliminates the adequate yearly progress (AYP) measure and ineffectual labeling of schools.
- Provides more accurate identification of schools in need of intervention and school supports.
- Improves the effective educational practices and professional development of teachers, principals and superintendents.

Obtaining the ESEA waiver is an important step for Missouri as it works to achieve its Top 10 by 20 Plan. The plan calls for Missouri to rank in the top 10 states nationwide in academic achievement by the year 2020.

More detailed information about Missouri's waiver, including the state's complete application, answers to frequently asked questions and a comparison between the requirements of the NCLB Act and Missouri's new accountability requirements, can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/qs/esea-waiver.html>.

Thank you for your help in the successful waiver effort. Educators and administrators throughout the state provided feedback and support for many of the required principles. We look forward to working with you to improve the lives of Missouri's children.