

November 20, 2017

Mr. Jason Botel
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Botel:

On behalf of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), I am writing in accordance with section 8401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) to request a waiver from the following:

- Sections 1111(b)(3)(C)(xii) and (b)(3)(C)(xv), which require, respectively, a State to produce individual student interpretative, descriptive, and diagnostic reports for parents, teachers, and principals and to produce itemized score analyses for local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools.
- Section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) and (h)(1)(C)(iv), and the corresponding requirements in 1111(h)(2)(B), which require a State and each LEA to report on their respective report card student achievement data by achievement level, and the most recent two-year trend in student achievement.

Specifically, DESE is requesting that it be allowed to report only participation rates as part of the EDEN/CSPR collection for the Algebra I and English II End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, excluding proficiency rate data. Missouri will report all other proficiency rate data.

Missouri conducted both grade level and EOC assessments in 2017. When DESE received the 2017 statewide assessment results in late July, staff immediately alerted Questar, Missouri's EOC test vendor, that further analysis was needed and then convened the state's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – made up of nationally recognized experts in assessment – to review the results.

At its August 18 meeting, the TAC concluded that there were year-to-year comparability issues in Algebra I and English II. The TAC did not express concern about any other EOCs. This issue did not impact the grade level assessments. After additional review, the TAC recommended that the 2017 Algebra I and English II data not be reported. DESE agreed with the recommendation and will not use the data for state accountability purposes or report it on the website.

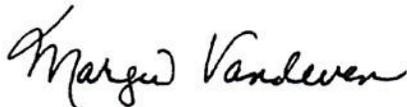
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These versions of the Algebra I and English II EOC assessments will not be used again. DESE has transitioned to new Missouri-educator developed English language arts and mathematics assessments for the 2017-18 school year.

DESE is providing all LEAs in the State with a notice of the waiver request and a reasonable opportunity to comment. DESE is accepting comments through December 4, 2017. Any comments received in response to this request will be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education.

Please feel free to contact Jocelyn Strand by phone at 573-751-4104 or by email at jocelyn.strand@dese.mo.gov if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education

c: Stacey Preis, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services
✓ Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Quality Schools
Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator, School Improvement
Craig Rector, Coordinator, Grants and Resources