

October 15, 2008

Patrick Rooney
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-6100

Dear Mr. Rooney:

Enclosed is the State of Texas' proposal to use a growth model for determining whether schools, school districts, and the state are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* for the 2008-2009 school year.

Per Texas Education Agency staff's communications with you, Texas is submitting a preliminary growth proposal to USDE on October 15, 2008 and will submit a final proposal prior to peer review. A preliminary proposal is necessary at this time because Texas has an agreement with USDE to report AYP in October 2008 in order to include TAKS-Modified assessments. Therefore, data showing the impact of adding a growth measure to 2008 AYP results cannot be ready until later this month.

Implementation of a growth model is a high priority for Texas, and by reporting student growth beginning in 2009, it will provide valuable information about student performance. Additionally, use of a growth model will strengthen Texas' federal and state accountability systems, and in particular, will enhance the ability to close achievement gaps based on race, ethnicity, socio-economic and special program status. This proposal is fully consistent with, and will enhance Texas' success in meeting the underlying purpose and principles of NCLB.

Thank you for considering Texas' growth model proposal. Please direct questions to Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner for Assessment, Accountability, and Data Quality at criss.cloudt@tea.state.tx.us, or 512-463-9711.

Sincerely,

Robert Scott
Commissioner of Education

c: Criss Cloudt, Associate Commissioner
Assessment, Accountability, and Data Quality
Gloria Zyskowski, Deputy Associate Commissioner
Student Assessment Division
Shannon Housson, Director for Performance Reporting Division
Lizzette Reynolds, Deputy Commissioner, Statewide Policy and Programs