

September 18, 2013

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20202-6100

Subject: Request for Waiver under P.L. 107-110, Section 9401  
To Reduce Duplication and Unnecessary Burden on the SEA and LEAs

Dear Secretary Duncan:

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is requesting that the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) waive specific provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by P.L. 107-110 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. The waiver requests are submitted under NCLB's Section 9401 waiver authority and would give TEA and more than 1,200 local education agencies additional flexibility while reducing duplication.

Our state's educational system is aligned with the three principles outlined in your provisional waiver application. We are hopeful that you and your staff will recognize the potential gains that Texas schools and students could make by better aligning the federal and state systems without costly and time-consuming duplication of effort.

The attached application document delineates the specific statutory provisions for which we are seeking waivers and provides the supporting documentation necessary for USDE's review of the evidence supporting our request. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or want further information, please contact Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, Chief Deputy Commissioner, at [Lizzette.Reynolds@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:Lizzette.Reynolds@tea.state.tx.us) or (512) 463-8629.

Sincerely,



Michael Williams  
Commissioner of Education