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Michael Williams
Commissioner

July 15, 2014

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

Subject: Request for Waiver Flexibility Extension

On September 30, 2013, Texas was approved for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility through school year 2013-2014.

As stated in the approval letter dated September 30, 2013, by May 2, 2014, Texas was to submit to the U.S Department of Education (USDE) an amended request incorporating final guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems that met the requirements of ESEA flexibility, including the use of student growth as a significant factor in determining a teacher's or principal's summative evaluation rating.

Texas submitted that documentation to USDE on May 2, 2014. Since that time, leadership at the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has decided to extend the pilot operation of the teacher and principal evaluation systems for an additional refinement year.

Texas is submitting this letter as a formal request for an extension of USDE's approval to implement ESEA flexibility through the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

If you have any questions or want further information, please contact Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, Chief Deputy Commissioner, at Lizzette.Reynolds@tea.state.tx.us or (512) 463-8629.

Sincerely,

Michael Williams
Commissioner of Education

