



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

May 18, 2018

Betsy DeVos
Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. DeVos:

I am writing to request approval to amend Maryland's Consolidated State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). The request is related to the response to *Establishment of Long Term Goals* SEA section 1111(c)(4)(A)(i)(I)(aa) which requires the state to: "Describe the long-term goals for improved academic achievement, as measured by proficiency on the annual statewide reading/language arts and mathematics assessments, for all students and for each subgroup of students, including: (i) baseline data; (ii) the timeline for meeting the long-term goals, for which the term must be the same multi-year length of time for all students and for each subgroup of students in the State; and (iii) how the long-term goals are ambitious."

Maryland indicated in its initial response to the requirement that, "Long term and annual measurements of interim progress will be set using 2016-2017 data as the baseline year." However, at the time of submission, the 2016-2017 data was not yet available. The long term and annual measurements of interim progress were calculated as an example using 2015-2016 data. This request to amend Maryland's Plan rectifies the 2015-2016 data issue and presents the targets using 2016-2017 data as the baseline. Maryland is amending the Annual Measurement of Interim Progress tables for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. (See pages 15-16 and pages 89-90.)

On **DATE**, consistent with the way Maryland customarily provides similar notice and opportunity for comment to the public, the MSDE posted this amendment on its public website (marylandpublicschools.org) to solicit input and feedback from the general public. The comment period was open from **DATE to DATE**. It was also included in the Superintendent's weekly memo to local superintendents on **DATES**.

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Please feel free to contact Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy Superintendent, by email at carol.williamson@maryland.gov or by phone at 410-767-0651 if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

Attachments:

- Redlined version of Maryland's approved consolidated State plan that reflects the amendment, pp. 15-16 and 89-90
- Verification of consultation: screenshot of posting for public comment
- Communication to Local Superintendents