



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 18 2013

The Honorable Lillian M. Lowery
State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Superintendent Lowery:

Thank you for submitting Maryland's "ESEA Flexibility Accountability Addendum" (Accountability Addendum) for review. I appreciate the efforts that were required to prepare the Accountability Addendum, which replaces Maryland's existing accountability workbook under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). In conjunction with Maryland's approved ESEA flexibility request, the Accountability Addendum provides comprehensive information regarding the elements of Maryland's system of differentiated recognition, accountability and support.

U.S. Department of Education (ED) staff have completed a review of Maryland's Accountability Addendum, submitted on September 19, 2013, and found that it provides the requisite information. Accordingly, I am pleased to approve Maryland's Accountability Addendum, which will be posted on ED's website. If, over time, Maryland makes changes to its accountability system that affect what is included in the Accountability Addendum, you must submit information about those changes to ED for approval.

Please be aware that approval of Maryland's Accountability Addendum does not indicate that it complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I want to thank you and your staff for the work you have undertaken to address the items in the Accountability Addendum. If you have any questions or if my staff can provide you additional support, please feel free to reach out to your ESEA flexibility contact.

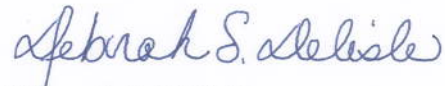
400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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I look forward to continuing our work with you as you implement your ESEA flexibility request. Thank you for your commitment to Maryland's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah S. Delisle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

cc: Governor Martin O'Malley
Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Academic Policy and Innovation