



For Immediate Release:

March 4, 2015

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## State prepares ESEA/NCLB flexibility request renewal Comments sought on latest plan to meet federal requirements

(HARTFORD, CT)—The State Department of Education is seeking public comment on Connecticut’s renewal for flexibility from meeting certain requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001.

Since 2011, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) has offered waivers to states to allow for flexibility in meeting federal requirements related to closing achievement gaps, improving instruction, and increasing performance.

Connecticut’s previous flexibility request was granted in 2012. The USED has invited the state to renew its request for up to an additional three years in order to sustain progress made to date under the existing plan.

In this flexibility renewal request, Connecticut is continuing its focus on college- and career-ready standards and assessments, educator evaluation and support, turnaround of low-performing schools, and an accountability system that goes beyond test scores.

Anyone interested in commenting on the flexibility request renewal application may email comments to [ESEAFlexRequest.SDE@ct.gov](mailto:ESEAFlexRequest.SDE@ct.gov) by March 20, 2015. A copy of the waiver renewal application is available at: <http://www.ct.gov/sde/commentsESEA>.

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