

Request to Amend Maryland's ESSA Consolidated State Plan Select Portions Related to Title I, Part A and Title I, Part B

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is requesting permission to amend Maryland's Consolidated State Plan under the Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), and then amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA).

Specifically, Maryland requests permission to make the following changes:\

- **Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Methodology**
 - MSDE has revised its TSI identification methodology to include all required indicators. Given that Maryland's star rating system used for the School Report Card includes all required accountability indicators, the new methodology will incorporate schools' star ratings. Beginning with school year 2023-2024 accountability, a school will be identified as TSI when the school:
 - Receives a one- or two-star rating in the current and prior year;
 - Has a student group that has not met its targets at the indicator level in both the current and prior year; and
 - Is not identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) school.

This amendment updates Maryland's Consolidated State Plan accordingly. (edits are on page 46 in the ESSA Plan which is attached)

- **Establishment of Long-Term Goals**
 - The four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates in Maryland's Consolidated State Plan were first established and approved by the State Board of Education in 2011. These graduation rates have since expired and a new set of long-term and annual measurements of interim progress was determined in accountability year 2021-2022. The revised long-term goals timeline extends to 2031-2032. This amendment will bring the Consolidated State Plan into compliance with statutory requirements. (edits which are on pages 17-21 and 94-97 in the ESSA Plan which is attached)

- **Annual Meaningful Differentiation (ESEA section 1111(c)(4)(B)(v))**

- Maryland’s accountability system does not presently include schools that have no grades assessed (e.g., preschool – grade 2 schools). The State has updated its system of annual meaningful differentiation to include these schools by pairing each with a school within the same local education agency (LEA) that does have grades assessed. The tested grade’s data will then be shifted back to the non-tested schools. The results of the exiting grade (e.g., grade 3 for a preschool – grade 2 school) will be reported at both the sending school (preschool – grade 2 school) and the testing school (e.g., a 3-5 elementary school). Where possible, a school that has a “feeder” relationship with another school serving contiguous grades will be paired with that school. In cases where the P-2 school does not have a feeder relationship with another school, the school may pair with a school of its choice within the same LEA. Additionally, MSDE will remove a business rule that excludes small schools, specifically those serving fewer than 100 students. The requested amendment to the Consolidated State Plan will reflect these changes. (edits which are on page 44 in the ESSA Plan which is attached)

This communication serves as notice of MSDE’s intent to submit a request to the United States Department of Education to amend Maryland’s ESSA Consolidated State Plan to bring the plan into compliance with the law as it relates to Title I, Part A and Title I, Part B. It is also an invitation for the public to provide feedback on the proposed waiver request. Please submit your comments by **December 4, 2024**, via email to doss.msde@maryland.gov. Copies of all public comments received will be included as part of the amendment request submission to USDE.

For questions, regarding the proposed amendment request, please contact Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support and Federal Programs by email at mary.gable@maryland.gov or by phone at 410-767-0472.