



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

April 17, 2023

The Honorable Tony Sanders
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Superintendent Sanders:

I am writing in response to Illinois' request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) on January 25, 2023, to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Prior to implementing any revisions to its approved consolidated State plan, a State must submit its proposed amendments to the Department for review and approval.

I have determined that the amended request meets the requirements in the ESEA and, for this reason, I am approving Illinois' amended State plan. A summary of Illinois' amendment is enclosed. This letter, as well as Illinois' revised ESEA consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website. Any further requests to amend Illinois' ESEA consolidated State plan must be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment to Illinois' consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the amended State plan comply 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. It is Illinois' responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Thank you for all the work that Illinois has put into its consolidated State plan under the ESEA. If you need any assistance regarding the implementation of your ESEA consolidated State plan, please contact Fatimah Abdullahi in the Office of School Support and Accountability at: OESE.Titlei-a@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

James F. Lane, Ed.D.
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary
Delegated the Authority to Perform the
Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosure

cc: Rae Clementz, ISBE
Jason Helfer, ISBE

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.

Amendment to the Illinois Consolidated State Plan

The following is a summary of the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE's) amendment request. Please refer to the U.S. Department of Education's website

(<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/>) for Illinois' complete consolidated State plan.

Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies

- *Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools*
ISBE clarified that it will label those comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) schools that fail to meet its statewide exit criteria as Intensive Support schools. These schools will continue to meet all statutory requirements for schools identified as CSI, including the requirement for more rigorous action.
- *Exit Criteria*
ISBE revised its statewide exit criteria to require schools to demonstrate measurable academic improvement, in addition to no longer meeting the criteria for identification.
- *Other Continued Support*
ISBE updated its descriptions of its more rigorous State-determined action for its Intensive Support schools that fail to exit CSI status after a State-determined number of years. Intensive Support schools will be required to complete a more rigorous needs assessment and will be subject to additional monitoring and reporting requirements.