



ESEA Flexibility Request

Four Principles of the Waiver

1. Adopt and implement college- and career-ready standards and aligned assessments.
2. Develop and implement a system of differentiated recognition, accountability, and support.
3. Develop and implement a system of teacher and principal evaluations.
4. Evaluate and revise, as necessary, a state department's own administrative requirements to reduce duplication and unnecessary burden on LEAs (school districts and charter schools).

National Update

- Currently 42 states plus DC and eight California districts have been approved.
- Arizona was approved on July 19, 2012.
 - FL, GA, OK, AZ, OR, KS, WA, NV were approved conditionally.
- AZ, KS, OR, and WA have been approved conditionally for a second year as well as placed on “high-risk” status.

Four Principles of the Waiver

- Good News!
- Arizona's waivers have been extended through 2013-2014.
- The application process for 2015 waiver renewals has already begun.

Conditional Approval

Arizona was approved for the 2013-2014 school year subject to meeting the two following conditions:

1. A final version of the new letter grading system with a graduation rate weight of at least 20%, and
2. Final guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems that meet the requirements of ESEA flexibility, including the use of student growth, as defined in ESEA Flexibility, as a **significant factor** in determining a teacher's or principal's summative evaluation rating.

Conditional Approval

In order to remove the first condition:

- Submit a plan within 60 days describing how and when the CCRI will be completed.
- Submit the impact data demonstrating that schools with low graduation rates do not receive high ratings in its letter grade system.

Condition #1 – Graduation Rate

Weight	Item and Points
10%	Annual 4-year grad rate (20 pts.)
5%	Annual 5-year grad rate (10 pts.)
	6-year grad rate (2 pts.) and 7-year grad rate (1 pt.)*
<i>Cap of 30 points (15%) permitted for graduation rate</i>	
5%	College and Career course participation (10 pts.)
5%	College and Career course success (10 pts.)

- The 15% weight on graduation rate will begin with the 2013-2014 letter grades.
- The 10% based on college and career courses will be implemented for the 2014-2015 school year.

Conditional Approval

Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems:

- Arizona's guidelines do not require, for grades and subjects in which assessments are required under ESEA (i.e. AIMS), the use of "a student's score on such assessments" as a measure of student growth in teacher and principal evaluation systems.

Condition #2 – Educator Evaluations

In order to remove the second condition, Arizona must submit a plan within 60 days describing how Arizona will address the following for **SY 2015**:

- Submit data demonstrating the significant use of growth and that sufficient weighting is used to differentiate among teachers and principals. Also data comparing summative ratings and the different components of the Framework.
- ADE is partnering with WestEd to provide research regarding the first year of the department's pilot. ADE is also working with MCESA and ASU to provide the requested information.

Condition #2 – Educator Evaluations

- How Arizona will ensure that LEAs will include Arizona's final method for including student growth as a significant factor in time for implementation in 2014-2015.
- Amend the framework to ensure that it meets the requirements of the use of student growth as a significant factor in determining a teacher's or principal's summative evaluation rating.
- In 2016, after the transition to a new assessment, ADE will return to the SBE to determine how it can best fit into Arizona's Framework.

Condition #2 – Educator Evaluations

- How Arizona will ensure that the use of grade or school-level growth data does not mask high or low performance of individual teachers.
- This will also be reviewed in 2016, however ADE has agreed to create an online alignment tool. This tool will not only provide ADE with a more clear picture of how local evaluation systems are being designed but also serve as a technical training tool and a way to better determine further support needs.

Additional Amendments

- Arizona has been approved to use an alternate method of Focus School designation for credit recovery alternative schools.
- The SBE just approved the new alternative school definition and application process.

Renewal Applications

An SEA seeking an extension of ESEA flexibility through 2015 must:

- Submit a letter to ED describing how ESEA flexibility has been effective in enabling the SEA to carry out the activities for which the flexibility was requested and how the flexibility has contributed to improved student achievement.
- Resolve any issues identified as a result of ED's monitoring, as well as any outstanding conditions, including by submitting, as necessary and where applicable, a revised request through the existing ESEA flexibility amendment process.
- ADE's monitoring report was similar to other states with School Improvement receiving the closest scrutiny.

Renewal Applications

- *If an SEA request is not renewed the state will be required to resume complying with all ESEA requirements by the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.*
 - 100% proficiency by 2014
 - Provision of Supplemental Education Services
 - Previous guidelines and requirements for funds use.
- ***Submit an amended request, amended Framework, and necessary data by May 11, 2014.***

The background of the slide features a stylized representation of the Arizona state flag. It consists of a large, five-pointed orange star in the center. Behind the star, there are several diagonal rays of yellow and red, creating a sunburst effect. The bottom portion of the slide is a solid dark blue.

ESEA Flexibility Request Arizona Overview