



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

OCT 07 2016

The Honorable Randy Dorn
State Superintendent
Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Old Capitol Building, Box 47200
600 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Superintendent Dorn:

I am writing regarding the status of Washington's accountability workbook under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), and documentation submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) on October 12, 2015.

In considering the Washington OSPI's request to amend the accountability workbook, I note that, since the request was submitted, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorized the ESEA, was enacted on December 10, 2015. In order to ensure an orderly transition to the ESEA, as amended by the ESSA, among other things, a State is not required to calculate adequate yearly progress under the ESEA, as amended by NCLB, for schools and local educational agencies based on 2014-2015, 2015-2016, or 2016-2017 school year assessment results. Therefore, it would be appropriate for Washington's OSPI to begin work on a new State accountability system rather than completing a revision of the current accountability workbook. This will assist the OSPI with focusing its efforts on meeting the requirements under the ESEA, as amended by the ESSA. Please note, however, that OSPI must continue to meet its statutory obligations in the 2016-2017 school year, as described in the two *Dear Colleague* letters related to transition to the ESSA that I sent on December 18, 2015 and January 28, 2016, as well as the ESSA Transition Frequently Asked Questions, all of which are available at www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html?src=essa-resources.

As the orderly transition to the ESSA continues in the coming months, the Department will provide ongoing guidance to support schools, districts, and States in this transition. I am confident that Washington will continue to advance its efforts to hold schools and school districts accountable for the achievement of all students. As questions arise during the orderly transition to the ESSA, you can find

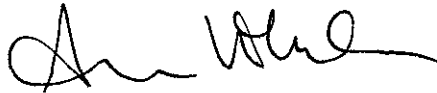
400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

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

the latest information at www.ed.gov and can ask questions by e-mailing us at essa.questions@ed.gov or through your program officers in our Office of State Support.

If you need any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Ashlee Schmidt or Diane Bragdon at: OSS.Washington@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Whalen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ann Whalen
Senior Advisor to the Secretary Delegated the
Duties of Assistant Secretary for Elementary and
Secondary Education

cc: Gayle Pauley, Assistant Superintendent, Special Programs and Federal Accountability
Paula Moore, Director, Title I