**ESEA Waiver Update**

**February 2012**

**Key Elements:**

NYSED seeks a waiver from the USDOE to **achieve more flexibility** in timelines for proficiency and funding **in exchange for adherence** to the US Department of Education Reform Agenda requirements to:

* Set College and Career Ready Standards/Common Core Standards Assessments and develop annual, statewide, standards aligned, high quality assessments that measure student growth
* Develop systems of differentiated recognition, accountability and support (Instead of SINI and DINI there will be “Priority” “Focus” “Reward” Schools/Districts.)
* Implement Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems in which student growth is a significant factor (Districts will earn full and partial credit for how quickly students are moving towards proficiency.)
* Reduce duplication and unnecessary burden (SED is working to align all efforts with SED reform agenda, RTTT and other supports in place.)

SED contends that there will not need to be significant policy changes made in order to meet the requirements of this waiver because they have already done considerable work to align with the USDOE reform agenda.

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| **What will be the same**  | **What will be different**  |
| **Measures Used** * Grades 3-8 ELA
* Grades 3-8 Math
* High School ELA
* High School Math
* Grades 4 and 8 Science
* Four and Five Year Cohort Graduation Rates
* All subgroups reported under old system will be included (i.e. students with disabilities, ELL students, etc)
 | **Definitions of Proficiency for Accountability Purposes**Proficiency for accountability purposes for all testing will be aligned with College and Career Readiness Standards. **For example:**SED will hold schools and districts accountable for higher standards for students’ individual performance on Math and ELA. Proficiency on ELA will be 75 and Proficiency for Math will be 80. (**This is the standard for districts and school buildings not for individual students for credit towards graduation.)**  Individual students still get credit towards graduation for Math and ELA Regents exams with scores of 65 and over. )**Determining AYP**AYP will be calculated in a similar way, but for reward schools and schools just beginning to have issues with making AYP, other factors will be considered in determining accountability status**Growth Measures**School and district growth measures will be aligned with those used to evaluate teachers and principalsNew assessments in ELA grades 9 and 10 may be added depending on funding**Other FUTURE measures under consideration:**College retention and credit accumulationAP, IB, SAT, ACT CTE program completionHigh school course credit earned in middle school and college credit earned in high school |

The Board of Regents approved NYS’s waiver application at their February 14, 2012 meeting. Emphasis was placed on the notion that this is a beginning. Also, the differentiated accountability system may continue to evolve over time based on the feedback from USDOE.