

Public Notice on ESEA/ESSA Waiver

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Assessment and Accountability Office is seeking comments on the following Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Waiver request that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (US ED). Comments should be submitted to Melissa Fincher, Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, at mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us no later than **Wednesday, April 20, 2016**.

Specifically, GaDOE is seeking a waiver of section 8401(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), of section 1111(b)(3)(C)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), that Georgia's assessment system measure the full range of the State's academic content standards. GaDOE will request this waiver only with respect to measuring the State's Speaking and Listening content standards, which are part of the State's language arts academic content standards. Georgia is requesting this waiver because it is not practicable at this time to include items measuring student skill in listening and speaking on its large-scale summative assessment. This waiver will advance student achievement by permitting GaDOE to have a valid and reliable assessment system that measures the full range of the rest of the State's academic content standards while providing time to complete the work necessary to have a valid and reliable measure of Speaking and Listening content standards.

Prior to submitting this ESEA/ESSA waiver request, the GaDOE is providing public notice to all interested parties in the State. The GaDOE is providing such notification by posting a public notice on its Web site of the intent to request a waiver of the assessment of Speaking and Listening content standards, included in the Georgia Standards of Excellence in English Language Arts from US ED. In addition, the GaDOE will email all district Superintendents, district Curriculum Coordinators, and Assessment Directors information about this waiver request. Copies of all comments that GaDOE may receive from Local Education Agencies (LEA) in response to this notice will be attached to the waiver request sent to US ED. The GaDOE will also be providing notice and information regarding this waiver request to the public in the manner in which the State customarily provides such notice and information to the public by posting the waiver request notice on the GaDOE Web site.

Please send comments or questions you may have in regards to this waiver to Melissa Fincher, Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, at mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us.