

Maryland Assessment and Accountability Waiver Related to Title III AMAO 3



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On behalf of local educational agencies (LEAs) that receive subgrants under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) Maryland is seeking input on a request for a waiver of section 3122(a)(3)(A)(iii) for the 2015–2016 school year. Maryland administered new assessments in reading and mathematics that are aligned to college- and career-ready standards in spring of 2015. **Maryland would request this waiver to permit affected LEAs receiving Title III subgrants to continue the same Title III interventions in 2015–2016 that they implemented in 2014–2015 for LEAs that do not meet the annual measurable objectives (AMOs) component of AMAO 3 for the 2014–2015 school year due to the transition to new assessments.**

Specifically, Maryland will apply this waiver for 2014–2015 as follows:

- If an LEA meets AMAO 1, AMAO 2, participation rate, graduation rate, and the other academic indicator in elementary and middle schools in 2014–2015, but misses the AMO component of AMAO 3, **it maintains its status and continues the sanctions from the 2014–2015 school year in 2015–2016.** This would mean that if an LEA missed an AMAO in 2013–2014 for the first time and misses an AMAO again in 2015–2016, it would have missed AMAOs for two consecutive years.

Maryland will continue to apply the statutory requirements for all other LEAs. For example:

1. If an LEA misses AMAO 1, AMAO 2, participation rate, graduation rate, or the other academic indicator in elementary and middle schools in 2014–2015, the LEA is considered to have not met AMAOs for that year;
2. If an LEA meets AMAO 1, AMAO 2, participation rate, graduation rate, and the other academic indicator in elementary and middle schools, and meets the AMO component of AMAO 3 for 2014–2015, the LEA is considered to have met AMAOs for 2014–2015. If the LEA was previously in improvement status, it would no longer need to carry out an improvement plan.

Maryland believes that the requested waiver will increase the quality of instruction for English learners (ELs) and improve their academic achievement by providing affected LEAs within Maryland the opportunity to focus on setting high achievement standards for the knowledge and skills that ELs need to demonstrate they are ready for college and the workforce.

In calculating AMAO 3 in 2014–2015, Maryland will use the AMOs in reading and mathematics applicable for the 2014–2015 school year in the State. The requested waiver will help the SEA and each affected LEA reach these AMO goals for the EL subgroup **by not penalizing LEAs for EL subgroup performance on reading and mathematics assessments during the first year of our new assessments aligned to college- and career-ready standards.**

Maryland assures that, if it is granted the requested waiver —

- It will calculate AMAO 3 based on assessments administered in the 2014–2015 school year and report this information publicly, in addition to reporting the results of the assessments.
- It will resume annual accountability determinations, including AMAO 3, based on State assessments administered in the 2015–2016 school year.
- It will continue to ensure that LEAs receiving Title III subgrants provide high-quality language instruction educational programs to the ELs and comply with all Title III requirements.

Should you have questions about this notification or have comments regarding the waiver request, please contact Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Academic Policy and Innovation, by email at mary.gable@maryland.gov or by phone at 410-767-0472. **All comments must be received by November 6, 2015** in order to meet U.S. Department of Education deadlines to submit this waiver. Thank you for your consideration.