

**ESEA FLEXIBILITY
Amendment Submission Template**

Dear Assistant Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland State Department of Education to request approval to amend the State's approved ESEA flexibility request. The relevant information, outlined in the *ESEA Flexibility Amendment Submission Process* document, is provided in the table below.

Flexibility Element(s) Affected by the Amendment	Brief Description of Element as Originally Approved	Brief Description of Requested Amendment	Rationale	Process for Consulting with Stakeholders, Summary of Comments, and Changes Made as a Result
Principle 1.C. Develop and administer annual, statewide, high-quality assessments that measure student growth.	In Maryland's approved 2012 ESEA Flexibility Plan, the State indicated it would be a member of the PARCC assessment consortium.	The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is requesting a one year waiver to allow schools participating in the PARCC field tests to administer only one assessment in 2013-14 to any individual student -- either the current Maryland School Assessment or the PARCC field test.	Maryland continues to be a member of the PARCC assessment consortium. To date Maryland has been allocated 49,441 field testing slots and plans to field test one classroom of approximately 25-30 students in every school in the spring of 2014. Maryland believes in strong accountability and understands the federal law requiring every student in grades 3 through 8 to be tested annually in both reading/ language arts and mathematics, as well as once	MSDE leadership met with local superintendents, representatives of the state education association and representatives from the Governor's office on July 15, 2013 and August 13, 2013. A committee composed of SEA staff, LEA staff and representatives of the state education association met to draft the written amendment on August 26, 2013. The State Board was briefed by the State Superintendent at an open meeting on August 27, 2013. On August 30, 2013, the SEA sent an email to all LEAs and the state education association inviting comment on the draft amendment.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0581.

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		<p>MSDE is further requesting that those schools field testing the PARCC assessments in the spring of 2014 be permitted to retain their federal accountability designations for an additional year during which the same targeted interventions would continue.</p>	<p>in high school. That being said, Maryland believes it is unfair and unreasonable to expect almost 50,000 students to take two statewide assessments in the spring of 2014. The State e supports a philosophy of “one child – one test.”</p> <p>Additionally, because students field testing the PARCC assessments will not receive scores, which inhibits the State’s ability to calculate a School Progress Index for 2013-14, MSDE is requesting that those schools field testing the PARCC assessments in the spring of 2014 be permitted to retain their federal accountability designations for an additional year. In those schools where PARCC is field tested, the accountability status will be frozen as of the end of the 2012-13 school year. While as of this date, Maryland has not received the</p>	<p>Comments received related to this amendment were positive in nature and no changes were made. A public notice including the draft amendment was posted on the SEA website from September 9 to 20, 2013. The request and any comments received were presented to the State Board at an open meeting on September 24, 2013.</p> <p>Some comments were received. Attached are comments submitted in response to the invitation to comment.</p>

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			<p>additional guidance on “double testing” mentioned in Secretary Duncan’s June 18, 2013 letter to Chief State School Officers, MSDE understands there has been some discussion regarding the setting of thresholds for “freezing” accountability status. Maryland would expect its plan for field testing one classroom in every school would meet any thresholds that may be imposed.</p>	

Please contact Dr. Jack R. Smith at jrsmith@msde.state.md.us or by phone at 410-767-0368 if you have any questions regarding this proposed amendment.

The Maryland State Department of Education acknowledges that the U.S. Department of Education may request supplementary information to inform consideration of this request.

Chief State School Officer

Date

09/06/135:00PM