

January 3, 2025

Patrick Rooney
Director of School Support and Accountability Programs
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Rooney,

This letter serves as Illinois' official request to amend the Illinois Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan. This amendment is a procedural amendment, prompted by the procurement of a new state assessment at high school, as required in Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5 and Procurement Code (30 ILCS 500/20-5).

Stakeholder Engagement

The state's previous high school accountability assessment contract expired on June 30, 2024. The Board approved the release and award of a competitive solicitation to comport with state procurement requirements at its September 2023 meeting and Notice of the Intent to Award was posted in BidBuy on Feb. 26, 2024. This change to assessments was driven solely by the expiration of the previous contract.

The change of state assessment, as well as many of the elective programmatic changes reflected in this amendment, were presented to obtain public feedback by Dr. Sanders and ISBE staff for stakeholders across the entire state beginning in summer 2024. Each session included live polling and open-ended response items to gather input and feedback. ISBE also shared the changes with the State Assessment Review Committee and Illinois Balanced Accountability Measure Committee as specified in Illinois School Code, professional organizations, and on the ISBE website. Feedback opportunities are summarized below:

- State Assessment Review Committee meeting – Aug. 27, 2024
- Illinois Balanced Accountability Measure Committee meeting – Sept. 11, 2024
- Illinois Association of Regional School Superintendents (IARSS) meeting – Sept. 17, 2024
- Title I Directors Conference – Sept. 18, 2024
- Bilingual Program Directors meeting – Sept. 20, 2024
- Illinois Association of School Administrators Fall Conference – Sept. 26, 2024
- IARSS System of Support meeting – Oct. 17, 2024
- Illinois Principals Association Fall Conference – Oct. 20-22, 2024
- IARSS System of Support meeting – Nov. 7, 2024
- Joint Annual Conference of the Illinois Associations of School Administrators, School Boards, and School Business Officials – Friday, Nov. 22, 2024

Analysis and Response to Public Comment

ISBE collected over 6,700 responses and comments via these engagement opportunities, however they were focused on how to improve the reporting and utility of assessment data and provide better support for school improvement. None were of a nature that could change the outcome of a state procurement, thus no changes

to the proposed amendment were made in response to these comments. The consultation required in ESSA with the governor was held Monday, Nov. 18, 2024. A redline version of the plan was posted to ISBE's website in December for an additional 30 day public comment period. One comment was received, noting that a newly added link in the footnotes was no longer active. A change was made to provide a working link. The Illinois State Board of Education approved the amendment on Dec. 18.

The final changes to the amendment are reflected in the attached redlined version of our State Plan. You may find this version posted in draft form at www.isbe.net/essa.

We appreciate your consideration of this amendment request.