

USDE Approves Amendments to the Illinois Accountability Plan

The United States Department of Education has approved Illinois' request to amend its state accountability plan under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The following statements reflect the amendments to the plan.

System of Rewards (Element 1.6)

Revision: Illinois has updated its system of rewards for schools and districts.

Identification of Schools and Districts for Improvement (element 3.2)

Revision: Illinois will identify schools and districts for improvement on the basis of not making AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area.

Assessment and Accountability for LEP students (Elements 5.1 and 5.4)

Revision: Illinois will include in its accountability plan the flexibility that the Secretary's letter of February 20, 2004, provides relative to limited English proficient students for assessment and accountability purposes.

Alternate Assessments (Element 5.3)

Revision: Illinois will be using the final regulation in the Federal Register issued December 9, 2003, concerning the 1.0 percent cap. Specifically, Illinois will ensure that the "number of proficient and advanced scores based on the alternate achievement standards," does not exceed 1.0 percent of all students in the grades assessed at the state and LEA levels.

Participation Rate (element 10.1)

Revision: Illinois will adopt the new flexibility regarding multi-year averaging of the participation rate. Illinois will also adopt the new flexibility regarding students who have significant medical emergencies during the testing window and its affect on a school's participation rate.

Adding a multiracial/ethnic group to the state's major racial/ethnic groups for both accountability and reporting purposes has also been approved.

The amended accountability plan can be viewed at

http://www.isbe.net/nclb/pdfs/account_workbook.pdf