
THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

8:05-8:30



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Michael Yudin
U.S. Department of Education

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR REFORM

- The Department of Education will be a partner with States developing ESEA Flexibility plans
 - Supporting innovation and reform in the states
 - Maintaining a high bar for the success of all students
- The Department will support States in multiple ways
 - Providing States information and assistance to submit a complete request
 - Helping States think through comprehensive reforms that will support great teaching and help all students achieve success

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO REFORM

- There is not one right way to meet the ESEA Flexibility principles
 - States are already advancing a variety of innovations to support education reforms
 - The Department will work with States to meet the principles based on each State's context
- There is not one right timeline for requesting flexibility
 - States that are ready will be able to get started immediately
 - States that need time to put the foundations in place will have multiple chances to submit requests and receive assistance

TIMELINES FOR SUBMISSION

- Submit request by **November 14, 2011** for December peer review
- Submit request by **mid-February, 2012** for a Spring 2012 peer review
- If States need additional time to submit for the full flexibility package, there will be an additional request window following the 2011-2012 school year

REVIEW PROCESS

- Peer Review
 - State requests will be evaluated by expert peer reviewers
 - A State will have opportunities to clarify its flexibility request for reviewers and to answer reviewer questions
 - Peer reviewer evaluations will inform the Secretary's decisions to grant flexibility to States

- Continuing Engagement with States
 - The Department will provide feedback about components of the request that need additional development
 - States will receive continuing technical assistance and additional opportunities for peer review

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Webinars
 - Overview of Principles (September 26)
 - ESEA Flexibility: Developing the SEA Request (September 28)
 - Responses to State Questions (October 5)
- State Questions and Office Hours
 - To submit questions or schedule a time for SEA teams to speak with Department staff, contact ESEAflexibility@ed.gov

OESE FLEXIBILITY TEAM

- Susan Wilhelm
- Sharon Hall
- Victoria Hammer
- Elizabeth Grant
- Lexi Barrett
- Nola Cromer