



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Richard Woods
Superintendent
Georgia Department of Education
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Superintendent Woods:

Thank you for your participation in the U.S. Department of Education's (the Department) assessment peer review process under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). I appreciate the efforts of the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to prepare for the peer review, which occurred in January 2022. Specifically, GaDOE submitted evidence regarding the general assessments in reading/language arts (R/LA), mathematics, and science for grades 3-8 and high school.

State assessment systems provide essential information that States, districts, principals and teachers can use to identify the academic needs of students, target resources and supports toward students who need them most, evaluate school and program effectiveness and close achievement gaps among students. A high-quality assessment system also provides useful information to parents about their children's advancement against and achievement of grade-level standards. The Department's peer review of State assessment systems is designed to provide feedback to States to support the development and administration of high-quality assessments.

The Department carefully evaluated GaDOE's submission and found, based on the evidence received, that the components of your assessment system meet all the statutory and regulatory requirements of sections 1111(b)(1) and (2) of the ESEA. Based on SSA's analysis of the State's submission, I have determined the following:

- General assessments in R/LA, mathematics, and science for grades 3-8 and high school (Georgia Milestones): **Meets the requirements of the ESEA.**

Congratulations on this significant accomplishment. Assessments that produce valid and reliable results are fundamental to a State's accountability system. Please be aware that approval of GaDOE's assessments is not a determination that the system complies with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title IX of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Also, please remember that, if GaDOE makes significant changes in its assessments, the State must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval.

The full desk review notes are enclosed. We encourage you to read the full set of notes for additional suggestions and recommendations for improving your assessment system.

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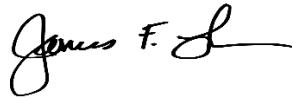
The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

The Department originally placed conditions on GaDOE's Title I, Part A grant award beginning on April 18, 2018, regarding its general and alternate assessment systems in R/LA, mathematics, and science for grades 3-8 and high school and, beginning on September 25, 2019, regarding its English language proficiency (ELP) assessments. While GaDOE has satisfied the condition with respect to its general assessments in R/LA, mathematics, and science for grades 3-8 and high school, the condition will continue until GaDOE meets all the requirements in the ESEA for its alternate assessments based on alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and for its ELP assessments.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving educational outcomes for all students. I look forward to our continued partnership as we move ahead with this critical work. I appreciate the work you are doing to improve your schools and provide a high-quality education for your students.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff at: ESEA.Assessment@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Lane, Ed.D.
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary
Delegated the Authority to Perform the
Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosures

cc: Allison Timberlake, Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability