



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 10, 2022

SENT VIA FIRST CLASS AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Patrick Rooney
Director - School Support and Accountability Programs
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. S.W., Rm 3W200, LBJ
Washington, DC 20202-6132

Dear Mr. Rooney:

I am writing to inform you that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) plans to administer our Fall 2022 Annual Meaningful Differentiation (AMD) process in a manner that is overwhelmingly consistent with the State's approved 2019 Consolidated State ESSA Plan, with one exception. Pennsylvania will further implement the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) 2021 accountability waiver by not incorporating academic achievement data from the 2020-2021 school year into multi-year averages used for designation. We will instead use achievement data from the 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 school years to produce the necessary multi-year averages.

These plans are consistent with ED's guidance on the Impact of COVID-19 on 2021-2022 Accountability Systems Required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and our own commitments to Pennsylvania's education community not to use 2020-2021 achievement data for high stakes purposes.

Pennsylvania thanks ED for its continued partnership in ESSA implementation. Please contact me with any questions as we work to quickly implement these plan refinements to ensure transparency for our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hagarty".

Eric Hagarty
Acting Secretary of Education

cc: Karen Molchanow, Executive Director, State Board of Education
David Volkman, Acting Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education
Jeffrey Fuller, Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education
Samantha Snyder, Assistant Chief Counsel
Mark Zaccarelli, Senior Assistant Counsel