



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

January 3, 2023

The Honorable Eliezer Ramos Parés
Secretary of Education
Puerto Rico Department of Education
P.O. Box 190759
San Juan, PR 00919-0759

Dear Secretary Ramos Parés:

I am writing in response to Puerto Rico's November 4, 2022, request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), using the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum (Addendum). Puerto Rico requested these amendments to account for short-term changes to its system of annual meaningful differentiation for the 2021-2022 school year due to extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in response to the waivers the Department granted Puerto Rico from the accountability requirements of the ESEA for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and the assessment requirements for the 2019-2020 school year.

Specifically, Puerto Rico requested amendments to:

- Shift forward by two years long-term goals for academic achievement, graduation rate, and progress in achieving Spanish language proficiency.
- Modify the calculation of its Other Academic indicator for elementary and secondary schools that are not high schools to use science proficiency instead of the currently approved growth measure.
- Omit the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years when determining whether a school has met the statewide exit criteria for comprehensive support and improvement and additional targeted support and improvement schools.

I am approving Puerto Rico's short-term changes to its ESEA consolidated State plan. This letter and Puerto Rico's approved Addendum for the 2021-2022 school year will be posted on the Department's website along with the currently approved version of Puerto Rico's ESEA consolidated State plan (available at: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/>). Because I am approving changes through the Addendum that are not limited to the 2021-2022 school year (e.g., shifted long-term goals), Puerto Rico must submit an updated ESEA consolidated State plan that incorporates those approved changes at a later date.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment to Puerto Rico's consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the amended State plan comply with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of

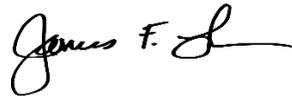
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<http://www.ed.gov/>

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the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is Puerto Rico's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Puerto Rico's schools and students. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James F. 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

cc: Naitzabés Martínez González, Esq., Director of Federal Affairs