

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

April 18, 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 to acknowledge Puerto Rico's February 2, 2023, submission to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to update its consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to reflect previously approved changes using the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum (Addendum). As indicated in the Department's approval letter for Puerto Rico's Addendum on January 2, 2023, I approved certain changes through the Addendum that are not limited to the 2021-2022 school year and indicated that the State must submit an updated ESEA consolidated State plan that incorporates those approved changes at a later date.

Puerto Rico's updated consolidated State plan incorporates the following change approved through the Addendum that is not limited to the 2021-2022 school year:

• Shift forward long-term goals for academic achievement, graduation rate, and progress in achieving Spanish language proficiency by two years.

Puerto Rico's updated consolidated State plan also describes the following one-year change limited to the 2021-2022 school year that was approved using the Addendum:

 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.

This letter and Puerto Rico's updated consolidated State plan will be posted on the Department's website (available at: <a href="https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/">https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/</a>).

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

I appreciate all you are doing to support your schools to ensure the health and well-being of students and educators. Thank you again for your dedication to this effort. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at <a href="mailto:OESE.Titlei-a@ed.gov">OESE.Titlei-a@ed.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

James F. Lane, Ed.D.

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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