



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Kenneth James  
Commissioner  
State Department of Education  
Four State Capitol Mall, Room 304A  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1071

Dear Commissioner James:

I am pleased to hereby renew the Department's approval of Arkansas' participation in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) growth model pilot. This approval allows Arkansas to implement its growth model as a part of its calculation of adequate yearly progress (AYP) under section 1111(b)(2) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), for AYP determinations in 2008-09 based on assessments administered in the 2007-08 school year. Arkansas is granted this flexibility under section 9401 of the ESEA.

As in the past, in exchange for the flexibility granted to Arkansas, Arkansas must continue to comply with the following conditions for the growth model pilot:

- Arkansas must provide the Department with data comparing the results of determining AYP on the basis of its growth model with the results obtained when AYP is determined under the statutory model; and
- Arkansas must continue its participation in the evaluation of growth models being conducted by the National Opinion Research Council and the University of Chicago.

Continued approval to participate in the growth model pilot beyond this school year will be determined later this year. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding Arkansas' continued participation in the growth model pilot, please contact Abigail Rogers ([Abigail.Rogers@ed.gov](mailto:Abigail.Rogers@ed.gov)) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

cc: Governor Mike Beebe  
Gail Potter