



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Larry LeDoux  
Commissioner of Education  
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development  
Pouch F, State Office Building  
801 West Tenth Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500

Dear Commissioner LeDoux:

I am pleased to hereby renew the Department's approval of Alaska's participation in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) growth model pilot. This approval allows Alaska 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. Alaska is granted this flexibility under section 9401 of the ESEA.

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

- Alaska 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
- Alaska 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 Alaska's continued participation in the growth model pilot, please contact Abigail Potts ([Abigail.Potts@ed.gov](mailto:Abigail.Potts@ed.gov)) of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Briggs".

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

cc: Governor Sarah Palin  
Les Morse

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)