



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Arizona Department of Education
1535 West Jefferson Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Superintendent Horne:

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

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

- Arizona 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
- Arizona 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 Arizona's continued participation in the growth model pilot, please contact Martha Snyder (Martha.Snyder@ed.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

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

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

cc: Governor Janet Napolitano
Robert Franciosi

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