



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Susan Tave Zelman
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4163

Dear Superintendent Zelman:

I am pleased to remove the condition, placed by Secretary Spellings in her letter on May 24, 2007, on Ohio's approval to implement a 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). With the revised accountability workbook, which I approved on July 1, 2008, Ohio is now using a uniform minimum group size for all students in the state, including students with disabilities and limited English proficient students. Therefore, I hereby approve Ohio's participation in the U.S. Department of Education's (Department's) growth model pilot. This approval allows Ohio to implement its growth model as a part of its AYP determinations in 2008-09 based on assessments administered in the 2007-08 school year. Ohio is granted this flexibility under section 9401 of the ESEA.

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

- Ohio 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
- Ohio 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 Ohio's continued participation in the growth model pilot, please contact Jessica Morffi (Jessica.Morffi@ed.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.

cc: Governor Ted Strickland
Jeanine Molock