



Together, we can.

May 1, 2008

Secretary Margaret Spellings
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Spellings:

On behalf of the South Carolina Department of Education, I am delighted to submit our application to become a pilot state for the Differentiated Accountability model.

The revisions, expansions, and flexibility within our model will help South Carolina serve more effectively and efficiently all schools and districts identified for improvement. In particular, our model's inclusion of categories of Adjustment, Transition, and Priority within the stages of Improvement will help us identify the schools and districts most in need of extensive, intense interventions.

As the attached proposal shows, many people have been involved in developing South Carolina's model. Agency personnel from across divisions, school personnel, district staff, parents, and community members have had input in and support the model we have proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to refine our system so that it helps South Carolina move forward to proficiency for all students by 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Rex".

Jim Rex
State Superintendent of Education

JHR/gsw