



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUL 25 2008

The Honorable Judy Jeffrey  
Director of Education  
Iowa Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
East 14th & Grand Streets  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146

Dear Director Jeffrey:

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

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

- Iowa 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
- Iowa must continue its participation in the evaluation of growth models being conducted by the National Opinion Research Council and the University of Chicago.

However, as I noted my letter to you on February 22, 2008, and as confirmed in correspondence from your staff on July 3, 2008, Iowa must ensure that, beginning with AYP determinations based on tests administered in 2007–08, Iowa will use the "other academic indicator" (i.e., attendance rates for elementary schools and graduation rates for secondary schools) in AYP determinations at the school, district, and state levels. Iowa must also ensure that it provides timely AYP determinations to all districts. If Iowa is unable to comply with these requirements for the 2008–09 AYP determinations based on assessments administered in the 2007–08 school year, the Department will not permit Iowa to continue to use its growth model in AYP determinations. If you have any questions regarding Iowa's 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 Chet Culver  
Kevin Fangman

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