



# Florida School Boards Association

*The voice of education in Florida.*

**Andrea Messina**  
*Executive Director*  
Tallahassee

**Jane Goodwin**  
*President*  
Sarasota

February 24, 2021

Commissioner Richard Corcoran  
Turlington Building, Suite 1514  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Commissioner Richard Corcoran:

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) recently provided guidance to states on assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. In that guidance, the ED acknowledged that the pandemic requires significant flexibility for the 2020-2021 school year so that states can respond to the unique circumstances they are facing; keep students, staff, and their families safe; and maintain their immediate focus on supporting students' social, emotional, and academic development.

To provide school districts with the maximum flexibility offered by the ED, **FSBA encourages you to request a waiver for the 2020-2021 school year of the accountability and school identification requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).**

Specifically, Florida school districts request waiving the requirement that the Academic Achievement indicator be adjusted to account for a participation rate below 95 percent.

We also encourage you to consider additional flexibility in the administration of statewide assessments, including administering a shortened version of its statewide assessments; offering remote administration, where feasible; and/or extending the testing window to the greatest extent practicable.

Since Spring 2020, Florida school districts have continued to adjust and adapt to the changing needs of their students and families. Granting these flexibilities would allow districts to continue to accommodate the needs of individual students while ensuring assessment of student learning in meaningful ways.

FSBA thanks you in advance for your thoughtful attention to and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jane Goodwin  
FSBA President

Beverly Slough  
Federal Relations Subcommittee Chair

Andrea Messina  
Executive Director

*The mission of the Florida School Boards Association is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education.*