

Your Question:

Which states have requested waivers of assessment and accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and what is the status of those waiver requests?

Our Response:

Below is an overview of state waiver requests for assessment and accountability requirements for the 2020-21 school year. In general, there were [four types of waivers requested](#): assessment, accountability, the 1% cap on using alternative assessments, and for **Maine** and **Montana**, field test waivers.

Assessment Waivers

At least 12 states and the District of Columbia requested waivers of requirements that the state administer its academic assessments to all public elementary and secondary school students in the state because of the disruptions to education during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Colorado** and **Oregon** proposed alternative administration of assessments and those waivers were approved. Because of the deep impact of the pandemic on the District of Columbia, that waiver request was approved without an alternative plan.

The requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that were waived are:

- Section 1111(b)(2)(B)(i) requiring the state to administer its academic assessments to all public elementary and secondary school students in the state.
- Section 1111(c)(4)(E) requiring states to measure the achievement of at least 95% of all students and to use test participation as a factor in calculating the achievement indicator in the state's school and district accountability system.

States: California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin.

Accountability Waivers

On Monday, February 22, the U.S. Department of Education issued guidance offering flexibility in state accountability system reporting requirements. The guidance allows states to submit requests to waive accountability, school improvement and school report card requirements for the 2020-21 school year. At least 39 states submitted waiver requests and all of those requests were approved. Those waivers exempt states from the following ESEA requirements:

- Sections 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D) requiring that a state measure progress toward long-term goals and measurements of interim progress; meaningfully differentiate, on an annual basis, all public schools, including by adjusting the Academic Achievement indicator based on a participation rate below 95%; and identify schools for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement based on data from the 2020-21 school year.
- Section 1111(h) detailing report card provisions related to accountability based on data from the 2020-21 school year.

In the approval of these waivers, the department stated, “the intent of these accountability waivers is to focus on assessments to provide information to parents, educators, and the public about student performance and to help target resources and supports. This is particularly crucial this year, due to the COVID pandemic. As a result, we also encourage you and your school districts to consider other steps within your purview to further reduce the stakes of assessments this year, such as excluding their use from students’ final grades, grade promotion decisions, educator evaluations, and local school ratings. Along with the waivers, states must make certain assurances regarding data sharing and school improvement.”

States: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Waivers of 1% Cap on Alternative Assessments

The ESEA contains requirements for the participation of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in the assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) and caps the total number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are assessed statewide with an AA-AAAS to 1% of the total number of students in the state who are assessed in that subject. At least 18 states requested a waiver of this cap because the prior year data that would need to be used would require more than 1% of students to be assessed using the AA-AAAS. As part of the waiver process, states are required to make certain assurances to receive the waiver. All but one of the waivers was approved. **California’s** was denied because they did not meet the 95% assessment benchmark required under ESSA.

States: Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

Field Test Waivers

Idaho, Maine, Montana and **Nebraska** had previously received waivers to field test new science assessments. Those were meant to be administered in spring 2020 but were delayed given the COVID-19 pandemic and assessment and accountability waivers issued in 2020. In 2021, Maine and Montana requested waivers to administer those assessments this year and specified how those assessments would be used and reported.

***NOTE:** the information below was summarized or excerpted from the U.S. DOE memoranda that are linked. Please review the full U.S. DOE memorandum for each waiver for more context and detail about the waiver requests and U.S. DOE response.

State	Type of Waiver	Waiver Request and U.S. DOE Responses
Alabama	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. Based on 2018-2019 data, and a credible estimate of students who will take an alternate assessment in 2020-2021, ALSDE has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p>

		<p>Waiver request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Alaska	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Arizona	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
California	Assessments	<p>Waiver Request: California sent a letter with the plan for administering assessments during the 2020-21 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Waiver not required</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. Based on 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 data, CDE has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p>

		<p>U.S. DOE Response: Did not demonstrate that it has assessed 95 percent of all students in science and 95 percent of students with disabilities in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science in the most recent year for which data are available.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Colorado	Assessments	<p>Waiver Request: waiver from the administration of statewide assessments to all public elementary and secondary school students in each of grades 3 through 8. Instead, CDE proposes to administer its general and alternate mathematics assessments to all students in grades 4, 6, and 8, and its general and alternate reading/language arts assessments to all students in grades 3, 5, and 7. In the other grades, CDE will offer the assessments but not require them, and will provide information about the assessments to parents. The State will also administer its high school reading/language arts and mathematics assessment, the SAT, to all students.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved CDE has demonstrated that this request will advance student academic achievement because, based on the specific circumstances in Colorado resulting from the pandemic, it maximizes the ability to obtain high-quality data regarding student learning that Colorado’s statewide assessments provide. It also maintains the importance of the annual statewide assessments to provide data on all students (either reading/language arts and mathematics in each of grades 3 through 8) to provide information to parents and educators.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Connecticut	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Delaware	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: requesting flexibility from the assessment requirements for the 2020-21 school year. DDOE expressed interest in receiving flexibility to permit its local educational agencies to use their locally administered assessments in place of the Delaware statewide general and alternate assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science</p>

		<p>for all grade levels. DDOE notes that consistent administration of the summative assessments presents challenges since some schools are operating in hybrid and/or remote environments.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: No waiver needed. Feedback provided.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
D.C.	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waive the requirements to administer statewide assessments to all public elementary and secondary school students in the State in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science for the 2020-2021 school year because of the significant impact the COVID-19 national pandemic has had in the District of Columbia. OSSE will administer its English language proficiency (ELP) assessments.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved The requirements to administer statewide general and alternate assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science requirements for the reporting of student results on the general and alternate assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Florida	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: extension waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in the subjects of reading/language arts (R/LA), mathematics, and science.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Waiver request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Georgia	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved Waiver request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement to administer statewide reading/language arts, mathematics, and science assessments, as well as the English language proficiency (ELP) assessment in the 2020-2021 school year, though GaDOE</p>

		<p>has been administering its ELP assessment. GaDOE noted that it has made available to its districts a formative assessment tool, BEACON, to assess student performance in reading/language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Denied</p> <p>GaDOE has not demonstrated specific circumstances that would warrant granting a waiver of the annual statewide assessment requirements and, specifically, not administering statewide assessments at all. Namely, GaDOE does not sufficiently demonstrate how the request will advance student academic achievement, how schools will continue to provide assistance to the same populations served by the Title I, Part A program, particularly low-achieving students, or how the State will maintain or improve transparency in reporting to parents and the public on student achievement and school performance, including the achievement of the subgroups of students.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Hawaii	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Idaho	Field Test	<p>Waiver Request: on September 25, 2020, ISDE received a one-year waiver of certain Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) requirements so that the State could administer a census field test of the ISATscience in spring 2021 for all eligible students enrolled in grades 5, 8 and 11. This new ISAT-science replaces the prior assessments in science and are aligned with new Idaho science content standards. Through the waiver, ISDE is approved to administer the field test to all eligible students, but not set academic achievement standards and not report assessment field test results to parents, educators or the public in the 2020-2021 school year. However, ISDE will hold districts and schools accountable for participation in the field test. In the additional request on October 15, 2020, ISDE requested to extend this waiver to permit the State to administer a field test of its new alternate assessment, the IAA science, so that the general and alternate science assessments will follow the same development schedule.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>

	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Illinois	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State because, based on 2018-2019 data, ISBE concluded it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Waiver request for school year (SY) 2020–2021 so that the State may assess with an AAAAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts and mathematics.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Indiana	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: “waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State because, based on State data for the 2018-2019 school year, IDOE concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students in the subjects of reading/language arts and mathematics using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved Waiver request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p>

		See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.
Kansas	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Kentucky	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State because, based on data from the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years and the State’s estimate of student participation in each subject area for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, KDE concluded that it may need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>Waiver request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Louisiana	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State because, based on State data for the 2018-2019 school year, LDOE has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students in the subjects of English Language Arts and mathematics using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>Waiver request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts and mathematics.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Maine	Field Test	<p>Waiver Request: waiver to permit MDOE to field test new general and alternate assessments in science in grades 5, 8 and 11 in school year (SY) 2020-2021. MDOE requested a one-year waiver of certain Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) requirements to support a census field test of the general and alternate assessments in spring 2020 for all eligible students enrolled in grades 5, 8 and 11. MDOE will not report assessment field test results to parents, educators or the public. However, MDOE will hold districts and schools accountable for participation in the field test.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p>

		See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Maryland	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in the subjects of reading/language arts (R/LA), mathematics, and science.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved Waiver request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Massachusetts	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Michigan	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waiver to not administer the statewide general and alternate reading/language arts, mathematics, and science assessments in the 2020-2021 school year. Rather, MDE proposed requiring local educational agencies (LEAs) to administer benchmark assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics, noting that each LEA is required to have a benchmark assessment that it is using this year. MDE also requested a waiver to suspend administration of the statewide English language proficiency (ELP) assessment.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Denied</p>

		<p>MDE has not demonstrated specific circumstances that would warrant granting a waiver of the annual statewide assessment requirements and, specifically, not administering statewide assessments at all. Namely, MDE does not sufficiently demonstrate how the request will advance student academic achievement, how schools will continue to provide assistance to the same populations served by the Title I, Part A program, particularly low-achieving students, or how the State will maintain or improve transparency in reporting to parents and the public on student achievement and school performance, including the achievement of the subgroups of students.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver extension on the number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who may be assessed in a given subject using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS).</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved Waiver extension request for school year 2020-2021 so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Missouri	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Montana	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirements to administer the statewide reading/language arts (R/LA), mathematics, and science assessments in the 2020-2021 school year. Instead, OPI proposed to let local educational agencies (LEAs) administer their local interim assessments in place of the State summative assessments, which could include Montana OPI's statewide formative and interim assessments.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Denied Montana OPI has not demonstrated specific circumstances that would warrant granting a waiver of the annual statewide assessment requirements and, specifically, not administering statewide assessments at all. Namely, Montana OPI does</p>

	<p>not sufficiently demonstrate how the request will advance student academic achievement, how schools will continue to provide assistance to the same populations served by the Title I, Part A program, particularly low-achieving students, or how the State will maintain or improve transparency in reporting to parents and the public on student achievement and school performance, including the achievement of the subgroups of students.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waive the same requirements in the ESEA regarding statewide assessments, accountability, and related State and local reporting for the 2020-2021 school year that the Department granted for the 2019-2020 school year due to the impact of the novel Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the State’s desire to focus on other related challenges currently affecting Montana’s students and education system.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Denied</p> <p>We do not think it prudent to waive these requirements in the 2020-2021 school year, which would result in parents and the public not having data on how well students are doing at mastering a State’s content for each tested grade and subject for a second consecutive year.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Field Test	<p>Waiver Request: On February 21, 2020, OPI received a one-year waiver of certain Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) requirements to support its development of Montana State Assessment (MSA) and the Alternate Montana State Assessment (AMSA) to replace the prior assessments in science, which were not aligned with new Montana science content standards. Montana proposed to administer a census field test of the MSA and AMSA (for eligible students) in spring 2020 for all eligible students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 (MSA and AMSA) and once in high school (AMSA). Subsequently, on March 27, 2020, OPI received a one-year waiver of all ESEA assessment requirements (including the science assessment requirements) due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As a result, on November 13, 2020, OPI requested that the waiver be extended to the 2020-2021 school year. OPI proposed to not administer the current general or alternate science assessments and not report assessment field test results to parents, educators or the public in the 2020-2021 school year. However, OPI will hold districts and schools accountable for participation in field testing.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p>

		See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.
Nebraska	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Field Test	<p>Waiver Request: request to extend the waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) of certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to permit the State to field test the new Nebraska’s College and Career Ready Standards for Science (NCCRS-S) assessment for school year 2020-2021. NDE is requesting this extension to permit the State to administer the full-census field test of the NCCRS-S assessment for all students in grades 5 and 8 in the 2020-2021 school year to prepare for an operational assessment in 2021-2022. This extension is needed because the State was unable to administer the field test planned for school year 2019-2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic when the Department approved a waiver from all statewide assessment requirements.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: request for a waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. Based on data from the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years and the State’s estimate of student participation in each subject area for 2019-2020, NDE has concluded that it may need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in reading/language arts and mathematics in the 2020-2021 school year. The State has already received a waiver for science field testing in 2020-21.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Nevada	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
New Jersey	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement to administer academic assessments to all public elementary and secondary school students in the state and the related state and local report cards requirements.</p>

		<p>As part of this request, NJDOE noted that its “Strong Start” initiative will include a shortened version of its reading/language arts, mathematics, and science assessments in the fall.”</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: No waiver needed Because the Strong Start statewide summative assessment is built on the State’s assessment framework and will result in information that is reported to individual parents and the public and that meets the other requirements of the ESEA. In addition, NJDOE will continue to administer the alternate assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science and the English language proficiency (ELP) assessments this spring.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
New Mexico	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
New York	Assessments	<p>Waiver Request: waiver the requirement that the State administer the same academic assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science assessments, as well as the English language proficiency (ELP) assessment, in the 2020-2021 school year, though NYSED will pursue administering the ELP assessment where possible.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Denied NYSED has not demonstrated, however, specific circumstances that would warrant granting a waiver of the annual statewide assessment requirements and, specifically, not administering statewide assessments at all. Namely, NYSED does not sufficiently demonstrate how the request will advance student academic achievement, or how schools will continue to provide assistance to the same populations served by the Title I, Part A program, particularly low-achieving students, or describe how the State will maintain or improve transparency in reporting to parents and the public on student achievement and school performance, including the achievement of the subgroups of students identified in section.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p>

		<p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
North Carolina	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: request to extend its waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. NCDPI requested this waiver because, based on State data for the 2018-2019 school year, NCDPI has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
North Dakota	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more</p>
Ohio	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. Based on 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 data, and a credible estimate of students who would have taken an alternate assessment in 2019-20, ODE has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>For school year 2020-2021, a one-year waiver extension so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>

	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Oklahoma	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: extension of a waiver on the number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who may be assessed in a given subject using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS).</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>So that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Oregon	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waive the requirement to administer the same statewide assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science in the grades required to be assessed for the 2020-2021 school year. Instead, ODE proposes to administer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General and alternate mathematics assessments to all students in grades 4, 7, 8, and 11 • General and alternate reading/language arts assessments to all students in grades 3, 6, 7, and 11; and • General and alternate science assessments to all students in grades 5 and 8. • In the other grades, ODE will offer the assessments but not require them, and will provide information about the assessments to parents. <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved.</p> <p>ODE has demonstrated that this request will advance student academic achievement because, based on the specific circumstances in Oregon resulting from the pandemic, it maximizes the ability to obtain high-quality data regarding student learning that Oregon’s statewide assessments provide. It also maintains the importance of the annual statewide assessments to provide data on all students (either reading/language arts, mathematics, and/or science in grades 3 through 8 and both reading/language arts and mathematics in grade 11) to provide information to parents and educators.</p>

		See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.
	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waive the requirements to administer the same statewide assessments in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Not approved, not denied, feedback provided Any information collected should complement and not replace student learning data obtained through high-quality statewide assessments.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Pennsylvania	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Rhode Island	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
South Carolina	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of requirement to administer statewide assessments in reading/language arts and mathematics; instead the state would permit its local educational agencies (LEAs) to administer a formative or diagnostic assessment. The state would include all data on state and local report cards that are available or calculable based upon the data, including the results of the local assessments.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Denied SCDE has not demonstrated specific circumstances that would warrant granting a waiver of the annual statewide assessment requirements in mathematics and reading/language arts and, specifically, not administering statewide assessments at all. Namely, SCDE does not sufficiently demonstrate how the request will advance student academic achievement, how schools will continue to provide assistance to the same populations served by the Title I, Part A</p>

		<p>program, particularly low-achieving students, or how the State will maintain or improve transparency in reporting to parents and the public on student achievement and school performance, including the achievement of the subgroups of students.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
South Dakota	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Texas	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: request a waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. TEA requested this waiver because, based on State data for the 2018-2019 school year, TEA has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AAAAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Utah	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>

Vermont	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: request for a waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. VAE requested this waiver because, based on State data for the 2018-2019 school year, VAE has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in mathematics in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Virginia	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: requests a waiver of requirement that a state may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State. Based on State data for the 2018-2019 school year, VDOE has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>For school year 2019-2020, a one-year waiver so that the State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Washington	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waiver requirement to administer academic assessments to all public elementary and secondary school students in the State. Instead, OSPI will administer its statewide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading/language arts assessments in grades 3 and 7 • Mathematics assessments in grades 5 and 10, and • Science assessments in grade 8.

		<p>The state also proposes sampling schools so that only 10,000 students are assessed in each grade which would provide the ability to report disaggregated state-level data but would not provide data at the school or local educational agency (LEA) levels.</p> <p>OSPI indicated that it also plans to administer a COVID-19 survey to students in grades 6-12 that focuses on remote learning experiences, mental and physical health, COVID-19 precautions, and social supports during the pandemic.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Not approved, not denied, feedback provided. In accordance with the ESEA, the information proposed should complement and not replace the data from statewide summative assessments that provide information on student learning at the individual student and school, district, and State levels.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
West Virginia	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	1% Cap	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement that a State may not assess using an alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State because, based on State data for the 2018-2019 school year, WVDE has concluded that it will need to assess more than 1.0 percent of students using an AA-AAAS in the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved The State may assess with an AA-AAAS more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students in the State who are assessed in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
Wisconsin	Assessment	<p>Waiver Request: waiver of the requirement to administer academic assessments to all public elementary and secondary school students in the State and the requirement for measuring the achievement of at least 95 percent of all students and</p>

		<p>using test participation as a factor in calculating the achievement indicator in the State’s school and district accountability system.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: No Waiver Needed No need for a waiver at this time because the state is taking advantage of the flexibilities offered in the administration of statewide assessments, including changing and extending your window for administering your assessments.</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>
	Accountability	<p>Waiver Request: waive the accountability, school identification, and related reporting and school report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>U.S. DOE Response: Approved</p> <p>See the full U.S. DOE memo for more.</p>