



Angélica Infante-Green  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island  
**DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

November 10, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Ed.D.  
Secretary of Education  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

**RE: Amendment to the state's Consolidated State Plan (CSP) under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

Dear Secretary Cardona:

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is pleased to submit an amendment to the state's Consolidated State Plan (CSP) under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We are attaching a redline version of our CSP that details our amendment requests. I briefly summarize these proposed amendments below:

**Science Proficiency**

Rhode Island's previously approved CSP included that Science Proficiency would be added in 2021. However, due to the impacts of COVID-19 this was postponed until 2023. In our amendment we propose the details for including this new School Quality or Student Success (SQSS) indicator. We intend for this measure to signal the importance of science instruction and achievement to the field and across the state of Rhode Island.

Assessment data from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years were used to develop the Science Proficiency cut scores, which define the number of points each school will earn for this indicator. Schools may earn from 1 to 3 points for Science Proficiency.

The 2021-22 and 2022-23 assessment data were also used to model the inclusion of the Science Proficiency indicator in Rhode Island's system of meaningful differentiation. Rhode Island has a criterion-based system for classifying schools, which results in star ratings for each school. In this system, indicators are calculated individually and then grouped together in columns in the state's school classification rules chart. Indicators that are grouped together in a column each contribute some number points to the column. The points derived for each indicator are then added together inside the column to earn the school a level from 1 to 5 on the star chart for that column. Whichever column or columns are at the lowest level of the school classification rules chart becomes the star rating for the school.

## **Identification for Support and Improvement**

Though ESSA only requires states to identify schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) once every three years, Rhode Island has been identifying schools for CSI annually. In our 2022 State Plan Addendum, RIDE proposed shifting to biannual CSI identification. As a long-term change, this is now included in our amendment to the state's CSP.

Schools identified for additional targeted support and improvement (ATSI) that have not satisfied the statewide exit criteria for such schools for four consecutive years may be identified for comprehensive support and improvement for the first time for the 2024-25 school year and then on a biannual basis. Due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state is not counting 2019-20 and 2020-21 toward the number of years in which a school identified for ATSI must meet the exit criteria before it is identified for comprehensive support and improvement.

The criteria for identification for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) have also been updated to incorporate newer measures, such as Science Proficiency.

## **Student and Teacher Chronic Absenteeism Cut Scores**

The significant increase in student absenteeism tied to the COVID-19 pandemic has been well-documented nationally and in Rhode Island. To account for this increase and recognize the challenges schools are facing in getting students back in school, RIDE will adjust the cut scores for the Student Chronic Absenteeism indicator slightly in 2023.

RIDE will also evaluate the state's 2023-24 student attendance data, once available, to determine whether and to what extent it is necessary to adjust the cut scores in the Student Chronic Absenteeism indicator for an additional year.

Similarly, RIDE will also adjust the cut scores for the state's Teacher Chronic Absenteeism indicator slightly in 2023 to account for impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluate the state's 2023-24 teacher attendance data to determine whether and to what extent it is necessary to adjust the cut scores in the Teacher Chronic Absenteeism indicator for an additional year.

We look forward to answering any questions you may have regarding the proposed amendments to our CSP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Infante-Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "A." and the last name "Infante-Green" clearly visible.

Angélica Infante-Green  
Commissioner of Education

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