



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

March 29, 2018

Honorable Ken Wagner
Commissioner of Education
Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminister Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Commissioner Wagner:

I am pleased to approve Rhode Island's consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to implement the requirements of covered programs under the ESEA and of the amended McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act). I congratulate you on this significant accomplishment.

My decision regarding Rhode Island's consolidated State plan is based on input from U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff who reviewed and carefully considered the plan submitted by Rhode Island. Consistent with ESSA, the Department conducted a peer review of the sections in your consolidated State plan related to Title I, Part A and Title III, Part A of the ESEA and Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act. The Department only reviewed information provided in Rhode Island's consolidated State plan that was responsive to the Revised State Plan Template for the Consolidated State Plan that was issued on March 13, 2017. I have concluded that Rhode Island's consolidated State plan satisfies those requirements. Accordingly, Rhode Island's consolidated State plan that was submitted on March 29, 2018, warrants full approval.

Rhode Island's consolidated State plan remains in effect for the duration of the State's participation in the programs covered by the plan. Each State is responsible for administering all programs included in its consolidated State plan consistent with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements even if those requirements are not addressed in Rhode Island's plan. Rhode Island must periodically review and revise the plan as necessary to reflect changes in the State's strategies and covered programs. If Rhode Island makes significant changes to its consolidated State plan at any time, such as changes to its accountability system or long-term goals, Rhode Island must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval. The Department will provide information on the process for amending a State plan at a later date.

Please be aware that approval of Rhode Island's consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the State plan comply with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans

with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is Rhode Island's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Please note that this letter, with Rhode Island's approved consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website.

It has been a pleasure working with your staff on this review. Please accept my congratulations for Rhode Island's approved consolidated State plan. Thank you for the important work that you and your staff are doing to support the transition to the ESSA and most importantly to lead Rhode Island's students to achieve at high levels. The Department looks forward to working with you to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

/s/

Betsy DeVos

cc: Honorable Gina Raimondo, Governor of Rhode Island