



ARIZONA ESEA FLEXIBILITY REQUEST

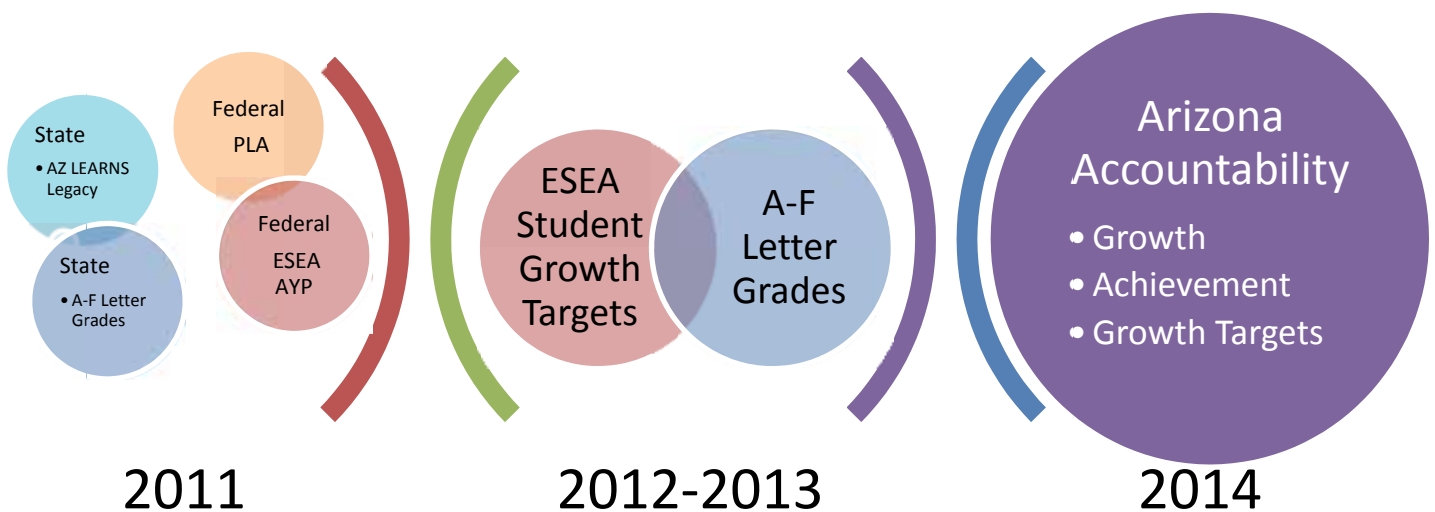
ESEA Flexibility provides a unique opportunity for states to demonstrate continued reform efforts and in exchange find relief from certain requirements of No Child Left Behind.

WHAT KIND OF FLEXIBILITY DID ARIZONA RECEIVE?

- To redefine proficiency targets.
- To develop Title I accountability formulas.
- To craft improvements to Title I school and district improvement.
 - The requirement to determine Adequate Yearly Progress was waived.
 - The approved request allows for concentrated school improvement resources in Priority Schools (those with lowest achievement) and Focus Schools (those with the greatest achievement gaps).
- Increased flexibility in use of federal funds.
- Increased flexibility for districts with Highly Qualified Teacher Improvement Plans.

WHY DID ADE APPLY FOR A WAIVER?

- To move to a more aligned system of school accountability.
- To provide more flexibility for *Arizona's education community* to decide how to best meet the unique needs of its diverse student population.
- To move from a system of compliance to one of support for our schools, while providing transparency for all education stakeholders.
- To link federal accountability requirements with our Race to the Top efforts.
- Many of the requirements are met by initiatives that are already underway.



WHAT WERE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN APPROVED APPLICATION?

1. Adopt and implement college- and career-ready standards and aligned assessments.
✓Adopted standards and joined assessment consortia in 2010.
2. Develop and implement a system of differentiated recognition, accountability, and support.
✓Passed A-F accountability legislation in 2010.
3. Develop and implement a system of teacher and principal evaluations.
✓Passed educator evaluation reform legislation in 2010 and State Board adopted framework in 2011.
4. Evaluate and revise, as necessary, a state department's own administrative requirements to reduce duplication and unnecessary burden on LEAs (school districts and charter schools).
✓Incorporated in ADE Strategic Plan.

ARIZONA'S FLEXIBILITY REQUEST - APPROVED - JULY 19, 2012

Arizona's Flexibility Request was granted through the 2012-2013 school year. Arizona may request an extension of these waivers through the end of the 2013-2014 school year by meeting the two conditions outlined.

At that time, Arizona, like other States with approved requests, may request an additional extension of these waivers through the 2014-2015 school year.

What Changes Are Necessary?

1. Increase weight of graduation rate in A-F Letter Grade System.
 - ADE will recommend that the weight for the graduation rate increases to 20% in the overall model for high schools.
 - ADE will also recommend that the increased weight for graduation rate be reflected as part of a college- and career-ready index to be included in the A-F Letter Grade System.
2. Amend educator evaluation framework.
 - In January 2013, ADE will submit to the State Board of Education a recommendation to amend the definition of "academic progress" to meet the requirements of ESEA flexibility.

- ❖ Stakeholder comment and feedback is still being sought.
- ❖ For more information please visit, www.azed.gov/eseawaiver.
- ❖ Please send comments to eseawaiver@azed.gov.

