



STATE BOARD *of* EDUCATION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

April 1, 2020

Re: Assessment and Accountability Requirements

Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by COVID-19 and resulting school closures, the U.S. Department of Education notified states of an optional waiver for the 2019-20 school year of the assessment requirements in section 1111(b)(2) of the ESEA, the accountability and school identification requirements in sections 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(2)(C)-(D), and certain reporting requirements related to assessments and accountability in section 1111(h). Oklahoma submitted this waiver to the U.S. Department of Education on March 20, 2020, received approval that evening to begin implementation of the requested waiver(s) and [received notification of formal approval](#) on March 30, 2020. This allows Oklahoma to waive the following:

1. The requirement to assess students in mathematics and reading/language arts (grades 3 through 8, and not less than one time in grades 9 through 12), and science (at least once in grades 3 through 5, 6 through 9 and 10 through 12) for the 2019-20 school year. This includes assessments for all students, including those with significant cognitive disabilities and English learners.
2. The reporting requirement for specific measures of the ESSA Accountability Index that are provided to the public via the Oklahoma School Report Card.

Oklahoma also must continue to provide support to schools already designated in need of Comprehensive or Targeted Support and Improvement in the 2020-21 year, as approved in Oklahoma's ESSA plan.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education is providing the public and all local education authorities in the State with a notice and an opportunity to comment on this request.

Comments are due via email to Lori.Murphy@sde.ok.gov by **April 30, 2020**.