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Commissioner Cassellius Applauds President Obama's Education Reform Package

Minnesota ahead of the curve to take advantage of NCLB relief package

Washington D.C. – Minnesota Commissioner of Education Brenda Cassellius joined President Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at the White House this morning for the announcement of the President's package to provide relief to states from the failed No Child Left Behind provisions.

Joined by education chiefs from 20 leading states, President Obama laid out his package for states to request flexibility from NCLB mandates that are "stifling reform." States can seek a waiver from these NCLB mandates if they implement initiatives such as college-and-career ready standards for students, teachers and schools, robust and meaningful accountability systems, and reforms to support effective classroom instruction and school leadership.

Commissioner Cassellius welcomed the President's announcement with the following statement:

"Today is a good day for parents, teachers, schools and students. I thank the President and Secretary Duncan for their bold leadership and laying the groundwork for Minnesota and other states to lead the way on education reform.

There is broad consensus from teachers, administrators, and parents that No Child Left Behind is a flawed law that has failed to deliver for our schools and our kids. The good news is Minnesota is already ahead of the curve when it comes to enacting the kind of innovative reforms the President and Secretary spoke of today. We have implemented more rigorous standards designed to prepare all students for college and career. We worked with the Legislature to enact a bipartisan teacher and principal evaluation bill that will promote collaboration and enhance teacher effectiveness. And we'll continue to focus our resources where they are needed most to help turn around schools that have the most persistent achievement gaps to support our students with greatest need.

In the coming days and weeks the Minnesota Department of Education will evaluate the specifics of President Obama's waiver package. We are committed to submitting a comprehensive waiver proposal to the U.S. Department of Education that will position us to lead the nation in the kind of meaningful accountability that will ensure every Minnesota student reaches their full potential."

For more information and a fact sheet from the White House on the details of the flexibility announcement click visit the following link:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/obama-administration-sets-high-bar-flexibility-no-child-left-behind-order-advanc>

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<http://education.state.mn.us>