

## Notice of Intent to Apply

As you may have heard, the U.S. Department of Education recently created an application process for states wishing to have certain aspects of No Child Left Behind waived and replaced by a state-developed accountability system. Information on this process can be found at [this website](#). The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is in the process of applying for such a waiver and will submit an official request on November 14, the first application deadline. Minnesota's application will be peer reviewed and the state will learn whether its request has been approved in early 2012.

Approval of Minnesota's application would have a major impact on schools around the state. Many notable features of No Child Left would be waived if Minnesota's application is approved, including:

- The 2014 goal of 100 percent proficiency for all schools and districts
- Identifying Title I schools as in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring
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- Set-asides for school choice, supplemental educational services and professional development
- Interventions tied to not making AYP

In order to receive this flexibility, states must meet four principles:

- College- and career-ready expectations for all students
- State-developed differentiated recognition, accountability, and support
- Supporting effective instruction and leadership
- Reducing duplication and unnecessary burden

Minnesota is already well-positioned in principles 1, 3 and 4. The state's application will explain what Minnesota is already doing in these areas and how it fits into the requirements of the waiver. Principle 2 will require Minnesota to make changes to its accountability system and describe how those changes will promote better outcomes for students. MDE has worked with a stakeholders group over the last month to develop a plan for differentiated recognition, accountability, and support. Information about this workgroup, including meeting summaries and all the documents they reviewed during meetings can be found at [this website](#).

Using this group's feedback, MDE has crafted a proposal. You will find an attachment to this email that outlines the proposed accountability system. If Minnesota's waiver request is approved, the system described in the attachment would go into place for the 2012-13 school year. Please feel free to provide feedback on the proposal. Send your comments to Sam Kramer at [samuel.kramer@state.mn.us](mailto:samuel.kramer@state.mn.us)