May 10, 2012

Mr. Michael Yudin
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Yudin:

I am writing on behalf of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to request a waiver of Section 1111(b)(2)(H) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, to permit Alabama to use the same annual measurable objectives (AMOs) that Alabama used for AYP determinations based on assessments administered in the 2010–2011 school year to make such determinations for the 2011–2012 school year. The ALSDE believes that allowing Alabama to use the same AMOs for AYP determinations based on assessments administered in the 2011–2012 school year as it used for the 2010–2011 school year will help increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students by removing the pressure of meeting escalating AMOs so that educators and other stakeholders within the state can devote necessary time and resources to planning for the implementation of ESEA flexibility, which the ALSDE needs additional time to do.

Set forth below in Tables 1-7 are Alabama's current AMOs in reading/language arts and mathematics and the AMOs that Alabama will use for Grades 3-8 and 11 if approved for the One-Year AMO Flexibility.

Table 1 Alabama’s AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Grade 3 Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA's approved Accountability Workbook.
Table 2 Alabama’s AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th></th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.

Table 3 Alabama’s AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th></th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.

Table 4 Alabama’s AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th></th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>91</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.
Table 5 Alabama's AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 - 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td>84</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 - 2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>89</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 - 2013</td>
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<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012-2013 and for the 2013-2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA's approved Accountability Workbook.

Table 6 Alabama's AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 - 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 - 2012</td>
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<td>84</td>
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<td>2012 - 2013</td>
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<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012-2013 and for the 2013-2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA's approved Accountability Workbook.

Table 7 Alabama's AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Grade 11</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 - 2011</td>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 - 2012</td>
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<td>95</td>
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<td>2012 - 2013</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012-2013 and for the 2013-2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA's approved Accountability Workbook.
Prior to submitting this request, Alabama teachers, leaders, college and university faculty, and lay citizens reviewed the Alabama Standards and the Common Core State Standards and compiled the best of both into the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts reflective of the aspirations Alabamians hold for all public school students to be prepared for college, career, and the workforce. On November 18, 2010, Alabama adopted these college- and career-ready content standards that meet the definition of "college- and career-ready standards" in the document titled ESEA Flexibility, as Alabama has adopted content standards that are common to a significant number of states. Attached hereto is evidence that Alabama has formally adopted those standards consistent with the state’s standards adoption process.

The ALSDE hereby assures that it currently provides student growth data on current students and students taught in the previous year to teachers of reading/language arts and mathematics in Grades in which the state administers assessments in those subjects in a manner that is timely and informs instruction, consistent with the timelines and definitions required under State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) Indicator (b)(2).

Further, the ALSDE has identified persistent achievement and graduation rate gaps within the state that need to be closed. As evidence of this identification, attached to this letter is a table that sets forth statewide achievement data, including proficiency rates and achievement gaps, for the “all students” group and identified student subgroups based on the most recent three years of data. The ALSDE hereby assures that it will report these data publicly by posting the data in a format that is easily understandable on its website on a page that is easily accessible by the public.

The ALSDE further assures that it will take all steps necessary to plan for the implementation of ESEA flexibility and will submit a request for ESEA flexibility. The ALSDE understands that if it fails to submit a request for ESEA flexibility or if its request is not approved prior to the time it must make AYP determinations based on assessments administered in the 2012–2013 school year, the ALSDE will revert to using its currently approved AMOs for the 2012–2013 and the 2013–2014 school years, meaning that all schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) in the state will be held accountable for reaching 100 percent proficiency by 2014.

Also attached is the notice the ALSDE has sent to LEAs in our state regarding this waiver request and the comments received as a result. Further, we have attached the notice provided to the public through the ALSDE public website.

Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (334) 242-9700 or by e-mail at tbice@alsde.edu if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

TRB:SW

Attachments: Board meeting agenda and minutes, notice provided to LEAs, LEA comments received, and notice provided to the public
## Statewide Achievement Gaps in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Graduation Rates by Subgroup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>Native-American</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Graduating</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Graduating</th>
<th>Gap</th>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-43</td>
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<td>63</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>83</td>
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<td>-6</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-42</td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
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<td>-18</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Graduation rate data for school year 2010-2011 is based on the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate calculations.

**Note:** A gap for a particular year is the difference between the percentage of students proficient in the particular subject or graduating in the "all students" group and the percentage of students proficient in the subject or graduating in the indicated subgroup. A negative gap indicates that the subgroup is performing below the "all students" group; a positive gap indicates that the subgroup is performing above the "all students" group.
REvised
AGENDA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010
9:30 A.M.
GORDON PERSONS BUILDING AUDITORIUM
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION

A. Call to Order

B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum

D. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of October 14, 2010

E. Approval of Agenda

F. Public Hearing for Alabama Administrative Procedures Act
   • Adopt Amended Rule, 290-2-4-.06 (3), Local Mechanic Certification
   • Adopt Amended Rules, 290-2-1-.01, Annual Apportionment of the Foundation Program Funds; 290-2-1-.03, Annual Apportionment of Transportation Funds; 290-2-1-.04, Annual Apportionment of Public School Funds

G. Action Items
   1. Unfinished Business - None
   2. New Business
      a. Public Comments and Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics
      b. Resolution to Approve Teacher Education Programs, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Alabama
      c. Resolution to Approve a Teacher Education Program, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama
      d. Resolution to Approve Teacher Education Programs, University of West Alabama, Livingston, Alabama
      e. Selection of State Board Delegate for Alabama Association of School Boards’ 2010 Convention and Delegate Assembly
H. Superintendent’s Report

I. Legal

J. Date, Time, and Place of Next Elementary/Secondary Meeting
   December 9, 2010, 9:30 a.m.
   Gordon Persons Building, Auditorium
MINUTES OF THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE STATE OF ALABAMA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

The Alabama State Board of Education met for its regular meeting of Elementary/Secondary Education matters on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 9:43 a.m. in the auditorium of the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called by the Vice President of the Board in accordance with Alabama Code (1975), §16-3-7, as amended.

PRESIDING: MR. RANDY MCKINNEY, VICE PRESIDENT
ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Randy McKinney called the meeting to order. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were held during the Postsecondary meeting. On roll call, the following members were present:

Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mr. David F. Byers, Jr.
Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, President Pro Tem
Dr. Ethel H. Hall, Vice President Emerita
Mr. Randy McKinney, Vice President
Mrs. Betty Peters
Governor Bob Riley
Mr. Gary Warren

Dr. Joseph B. Morton, State Superintendent of Education and Secretary and Executive Officer of the Board, was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2010

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the minutes of October 14, 2010.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, the Board voted 7-2 to approve the agenda. Mrs. Stephanie Bell and Mrs. Betty Peters voted no. Based on her statement earlier, Mrs. Bell informed Mr. McKinney and the Board that her vote was based on her request to address the proposed acceptance of Common Core Standards during the February 2011 meeting in place of today's meeting.

ADOPT AMENDED RULE, 290-2-4-.06(3), LOCAL MECHANIC CERTIFICATION

One individual, Mr. Ronald Jackson, Citizens for Better Schools, addressed the Board pertaining to this rule.

Voice recording of the speaker may be accessed on the Alabama State Board of Education page at www.asbe edu/stateboard under Podcasts.

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Mr. Gary Warren, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the amended rule.

ADOPT AMENDED RULES, 290-2-1-.01, ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF THE FOUNDATION PROGRAM FUNDS; 290-2-1-.03, ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDS; 290-2-1-.84, ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS

There were no speakers signed up to address the Board pertaining to these rules.

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Betty Peters, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the amended rule.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2009, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted a resolution to "Participate in a State-Led Common Set of Standards in English and Mathematics;" and
WHEREAS, the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) committed to create a school-led (not a federal government-led) effort to develop a common core of standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has conducted three work sessions on the topic of Common Core State Standards; has heard a report from members of the most recent English Language Arts and Mathematics Course of Study Committees on their review of the Common Core Standards and existing courses of study and that they prefer the Common Core Standards for use in Alabama’s schools; has not changed any policies or procedures for future Courses of Study development in any subject areas and that the State Board will continue to adhere to the policies and procedures for utilizing school personnel, private sector individuals, and the general public to serve on Course of Study committees, and the final adoption of Courses of Study will remain a duty of the State Board of Education; has not changed any policies or procedures for adhering to state law on the textbook selection; has heard a report on the four regional meetings held in Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Decatur where approximately 200 people attended; has heard a report that adoption and implementation of the Common Core Standards will cost less than the continued traditional development and implementation of Courses of Study; has reviewed documents of support from education groups, businesses and industries, the United States Military, and civic groups, both in Alabama and nationally; and has recognized that 38 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands have adopted the Common Core Standards, with four additional states having adopted the Standards by their respective State Boards of Education but needing legislative approval due to their state laws:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby adopt the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Done this the 18th day of November 2010

At this time, public comments were made by the individuals listed below.

| Dr. Joyce Stallworth, The University of Alabama | Basile Agricola, Citizen |
| Marci Carnhais, Smart Girl Politics | Dr. Hal Horton, Principal, Highland Park Elementary |
| Anita Gibson, Alabama Education Association | Krista Foster, Citizen |
| David W. Gaston, Living Waters Ministries | Susan Stephens, Citizen |
| Caroline Novak, Jr. Education Partnership | Tommy Ledbetter, Principal, Buckhorn High School |
| Waynella Wood, Citizen | Senator Dick Brewbaker, Alabama State Senate |
| Tina Watts, Boeing Strategic Missile | Dr. James B. McLean, The University of Alabama |
| Senator Scott Beason, Alabama State Senate | Smokey Smith, Eagle Forum of Alabama |
| Larry Lee, Center for Rural Alabama | Dr. Jeannette Box, Samford University |
| Deborah Head, Concerned Conservative Teachers of Alabama | Terry Frady, Citizen |
| Diana Crewe, Citizen | Gina Cox, Citizen |
| Wanda McDonald, Concerned Parent | Becky Gerriston, Citizen |
| Rick Barber, Conservatives of Alabama | Brenda Terly, AMSTEC |
| Vicki Hallway, Montgomery County School System | Rick McLain, Parents and Citizens of Alabama |
| Elros Zaanah, Alabama Federation of Republican Women | Barbara W. Williams, Army/Military Families |
| Ronald Jackson, Citizens for Better Schools | Charles Burton, Citizen |
| Lisa Books, Mom, A Sisterhood of Mommy Patriots | Valerie Askew, Concerned Women for America |
| Dr. Betty Rogers, Sanford University | Dr. Sally Howell, AASB |
| Ginger Griego, Parent | Dr. Susan Pruet, AMSTEC, MAFF |
| Catherine Webster, Brewton City Schools |

Voice recordings of the speakers may be accessed on the Alabama State Board of Education page at www.asboe.edu/stateboard under Podcasts.

Dr. Joseph B. Morton addressed the Board pertaining to the Common Core State Standards. Dr. Morton stated that the Common Core State of Standards are of high quality and are well-developed standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics brought about by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) not by the federal government. He said the NGA and CCSSO knew that if 30 states have different standards some would be strong and some would be weak and some students and teachers would be at a disadvantage not only within a given state but nationally and internationally. He stated that working together the idea of developing strong standards in English and Mathematics was born and the work began. Dr. Morton stated that the Board adopted a resolution on May 14, 2009, to participate in the development stage of Common Core State Standards, not to adopt, but to participate in order for Alabama to have a voice in what the standards look like. One of the writers, Dr. Susan Finamore, participated in the September 23, 2010, State Board work session. He stated that during Dr. Pimentel’s presentation, he asked her if anyone from the White House, U. S. Department of Education, or any other person connected with the federal government ever directed or made suggestions to her or any of the writing committee, and she firmly stated no to the question. He stated that Dr. Pimentel’s response was that the public reacted with over 10,000 offered suggestions for improvement. Dr. Morton stated that 40 states have adopted the standards and Alabama is the only state in the deep south that has not adopted the standards and is one of two states east of the Mississippi River that has not adopted. He advised that the original members of the Mathematics and English Language Arts Courses of Study Committees were reassembled (members who were appointed by the Board), and the committees worked for days going grade by grade and line by line and at the end of their work recommended that the State Board adopt the Common Core State Standards because they are better than what we have. Dr. Morton stated that four regional meetings were held beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the afternoon and the public was invited. He said he was pleased with individuals voicing their opinion today and also commented on people who are on the ground, the school boards of Alabama (locally
elected people), teachers, principals, heads of education, those who train teachers; the private sector, those who employ high school graduates, and last those patriots who serve in the military.

Dr. Morton said that for these reasons and others too numerous to mention, he recommended adoption of the standards.

Motion was made by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Mary Jane Caylor to adopt the Common Core State Standards.

Motion was made by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Betty Peters to table the motion until the February 2011 meeting. The motion to table was defeated 2-7.

Voting Yes to Table the Vote
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Betty Peters

Voting No to Table the Vote
Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mr. David F. Byers
Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
Dr. Ethel H. Hall
Mr. Randy McKinney
Governor Bob Riley
Mr. Gary Warren

Mr. David F. Byers, Jr., stated that he had a lengthy amended substitution (below) to the resolution presented that he would like to share. Copies of the amended version were distributed to the Board members.

At this time, a motion was made by Mr. Byers and seconded by Mr. Gary Warren to amend the original resolution with the wording highlighted below.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2009, the Alabama State Board of Education adopted a resolution to "Participate in a State-Led Common Set of Standards in English and Mathematics" and

WHEREAS, the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) committed to create a school-led (not a federal government-led) effort to develop a common core of standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has conducted three work sessions on the topic of Common Core State Standards; has heard a report from members of the most recent English Language Arts and Mathematics Course of Study Committees on their review of the Common Core Standards and existing courses of study and that they prefer the Common Core Standards for use in Alabama's schools; has not changed any policies or procedures for future Courses of Study development in any subject areas and that the State Board will continue to adhere to the policies and procedures for utilizing school personnel, private sector individuals, and the general public to serve on Course of Study committees, and the final adoption of Courses of Study will remain a duty of the State Board of Education; has not changed any policies or procedures for adhering to state law on the textbook selection; has heard a report on the four regional meetings held in Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Decatur where approximately 200 people attended; has heard a report that adoption and implementation of the Common Core Standards will cost less than the continued traditional development and implementation of Courses of Study; has reviewed documents of support from education groups, businesses and industries, the United States Military, and civic groups, both in Alabama and nationally; and has recognized that 38 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands have adopted the Common Core Standards, with four additional states having adopted the Standards by their respective State Boards of Education but needing legislative approval due to their state laws:

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education will continue to be the sole and exclusive entity vested with the authority to adopt and promulgate state academic standards for all subjects for students in the public schools, and that the Common Core Standards, without state adopted or direct pressure or coercion by the National Governors Association, English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards will be kept applied to all state schools and

WHEREAS, the American Legislative Exchange Committee (ALEC) English Language Arts and Mathematics could have a negative impact on Alabama's ability to continue to adopt the Common Core Standards, as an adoption of only 86 percent of the Common Core Standards could be a requirement of the ALEC as compared to the 100 percent adoption of the Alabama-specific standards, this would result in Alabama standards and course of study. Local initiative and the ability of the Alabama State Board of Education to have the ultimate decision of educational standards;

WHEREAS, the ALEC English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards contained herein that do not apply to any subject other than English Language Arts and Mathematics, and did not apply to assessments of Alabama students unless approved by a vote of the Alabama State Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby adopt the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Done this the 18th day of November 2010
During the discussion period, Mr. Byers directed the Board’s attention to the paragraphs added. He stated that he met with local superintendents in his area who were concerned about control at a national level and also some in high-performing school systems who were concerned that they would not have flexibility in their curriculum, and he concluded that clarification was needed. Mr. Byers stated that the intent of adopting a course of study was that we should always maintain control with a right to delete and add information. He said that the standards are not objectionable, only fears of what could happen in the future. Mr. Byers stated that he felt the Board should be aware if there is any effort for the federal government to control the state standards and feels that the Board should have every opportunity to be apprised of the situation before any steps are taken.

Mrs. Stephanie Bell offered an amendment. Mr. Randy McKinney stated that there could be only one amendment at a time. Mrs. Bell stated that there was a lot included in the amended version that is still questionable and does not protect Alabama from the standpoint of tailing Washington what we are going to do where there is so much unknown. She stated that a delay would be wise.

In response to Mrs. Betty Peters’ questions on whether or not there had been any changes or procedures pertaining to textbooks, Dr. Morton stated that there is no state law on the sequence of adoption only on the procedures and there would be no altering in that sense. He said there is a $15 per book appropriation from the Legislature for textbooks.

Mr. Randy McKinney called for a vote on the amendment. Mrs. Stephanie Bell made a motion to amend the resolution to delay the vote until February 2011. Mr. McKinney stated that the motion was out of order. The vote in favor of the amendment passed 7-2.

Voting Yes for the Amendment
Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mr. David F. Byers, Jr.
Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
Dr. Ethel H. Hall
Mr. Randy McKinney
Governor Bob Riley
Mr. Gary Warren

Voting No for the Amendment
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Betty Peters

In response to Mr. Byers’ question as to what is involved to be a common core state and whether or not there is an application process or an agreement, Dr. Morton informed Board members of his telephone conversation with Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director of CCSSO, who stated that there is no application process or contractual agreement; all that is required for the state, if the resolution passed, was to e-mail or fax the resolution. Dr. Morton stated that this provided an opportunity for states to collaborate on professional development for teachers and other activities in order to enhance the standards and when the state does another course of study in English Language Arts and if different from Common Core or if it does not look like Common Core, Alabama is out. Dr. Morton stated that the state could get out by a vote of the State Board and can get in by a vote of the State Board.

Mrs. Ella B. Bell stated that she was excited that someone has put high standards of achievement in place and sees it as an opportunity for the students in her Board district to have a level of education the same as the other 40 states.

Governor Bob Riley stated that this had been a truly interesting discussion and thanked participants. He said he felt more dialogue of this type was needed. Governor Riley reported that he had been working with other governors for the last five or six years and stated that the Common Core was set up primarily to make sure the federal government could not dictate to states what their curriculum could be. He stated that Alabama, in the past, has never led when it came to education and has never had the national reputation of a state that demands excellence. He said historically, Alabama has never been the state that other states wanted to emulate. Governor Riley said Alabama should never allow federal policy to dictate what the Board does. He said this has nothing to do with moral standards, but rather Alabama taking its rightful place. Governor Riley stated his support of the Common Core Standards and referenced Clay County’s (a county that does not believe in federal control) to principals who want to raise the bar of excellence. He, too, wants to continue to raise the bar. Governor Riley said this is an opportunity for Alabama to continue to do what is best for the children in this state, and we did not need to delay.

Mrs. Stephanie Bell submitted the list of organizations not in support of the Common Core Standards and said it was quite an impressive one, the Wetumpka Tea Party, the U.S. Coalition for Work-Clash Math, Tea Party Patriots of Alabama, Smart Girl Politics of Alabama, The Reason Foundation, Pioneer Institute, Pacific Research Foundation, National Association of Schoolers, Lexington Institute, The Home School Legal Defense Fund, the Heritage Foundation, The Hartland Foundation, Focus on the Family, The Family Research Council, Eagle Forum of Alabama and National Eagle Forum, Concerned Women for Alabama and at the national level, Common Sense Patriots, Christian Educators International, Cato Institute, Aligned Women of Alabama, The Alabama Policy Institute, and Alabama Federation of Republican Women. She stated that she heard from a long list of individuals who have asked her to vote against the Common Core Standards not only for Alabama but for the country. She said she also had an opportunity to hear from national associations, Education Commission of the States and Governor Tim Pawlenty, and they made very compelling presentations. Mrs. Bell said she had concerns about the amendments and asked if the vote could be delayed until February 2011 when a new board is in place along with a new governor. She complimented the Board members who came in 1996 on their service.

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor stated that this was her fourth term, and she felt it was her sworn duty to represent her district until the date the new board member takes office. She stated that she had met with individuals in her board district for months pertaining to Common Core, and she changed her mind and was in full support of the standards.
Dr. Caylor called for the question – a motion to end the debate on the previous question. Dr. Ethel H. Hall seconded. The vote on the motion for the previous question carried. The Board then voted 7-2 on the amended motion to adopt the resolution.

Voting Yes
Mrs. Ella B. Bell
Mr. David F. Byars, Jr.
Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
Dr. Ethel H. Hall
Mr. Randy McKinney
Governor Bob Riley
Mr. Gary Warren

Voting No
Mrs. Stephanie Bell
Mrs. Betty Peters

On motion by Mrs. Stephanie Bell and seconded by Mrs. Ella B. Bell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO
Montevallo, Alabama

WHEREAS, a review of teacher education programs was conducted on July 16-20, 2010, by the State Department of Education in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education, Administrative Code, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(2)(b)(3); and

WHEREAS, additional documentation was reviewed on September 13, 2010, September 22, 2010, October 6, 2010, and October 13, 2010; and

WHEREAS, compliance with the Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval of the programs:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following programs with approval to expire on May 31, 2016:

Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
Alternative Class A Collaborative Special Education (6-12)
Alternative Class A Hearing Impaired (P-12)
Class AA Instructional Leadership (P-12)

Done this 18th day of November 2010

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM
SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
Birmingham, Alabama

WHEREAS, a review of a teacher education program was conducted on July 16-20, 2010, by the State Department of Education in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education Administrative Code, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(2)(b); and

WHEREAS, additional documentation was reviewed on September 13, 2010, and

WHEREAS, compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval of the program:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves the following program, with approval to expire on May 31, 2013:

Class AA Instructional Leadership (P-12)

Done this 18th day of November 2010

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA
Livingston, Alabama

WHEREAS, a review of a teacher education program was conducted on July 16-20, 2010, by the State Department of Education in accordance with the Alabama State Board of Education, State Department of Education Administrative Code, Rule No. 290-3-3-.56(2)(b); and

Done this 18th day of November 2010
WHEREAS, additional documentation was reviewed on September 23, 2010, and October 5, 2010; and
WHEREAS, compliance with Alabama State Board of Education rules has been verified; and
WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval of the program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education hereby approves
the following program, with approval to expire on May 31, 2015:

Class AA Teacher Leader (P-12)

Done this 18th day of November 2010

SELECTION OF STATE BOARD DELEGATE FOR ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS'
2010 CONVENTION AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

On motion by Mrs. Ella B. Bell and seconded by Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, the Board voted unanimously for
Dr. Ethel H. Hall to serve as the delegate for the Alabama State Board of Education.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

[Signature]
Vice President

[Signature]
Secretary and Executive Officer
April 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

RE: One-Year Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) Flexibility Option

We are seeking your feedback on Alabama’s proposed request to the United States Department of Education for temporary flexibility of Section 1111(b)(2)(H) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, to permit Alabama to use the same Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) that Alabama used for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations based on assessments administered in the 2010-2011 school year to make such determinations for the 2011-2012 school year. The purpose of this flexibility is not to give states and districts a reprieve from accountability, but rather to move toward one aligned system of school accountability and provide the necessary flexibility at the state and local levels to improve our schools. The AMO One-Year Flexibility Option will allow school districts to better focus on improving student learning and increasing the quality of instruction.

Attached is the proposed flexibility request. The deadline for written comments from school districts is May 3, 2012. Please send your questions, comments, and concerns to amocomment@alsde.edu.

TRB/MM/SW
Attachment
FY12-3054
May 10, 2012

Dear Assistant Secretary Yudin:

I am writing on behalf of the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to request a waiver of Section 1111(b)(2)(H) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, to permit Alabama to use the same annual measurable objectives (AMOs) that Alabama used for AYP determinations based on assessments administered in the 2010–2011 school year to make such determinations for the 2011–2012 school year. The ALSDE believes that allowing Alabama to use the same AMOs for AYP determinations based on assessments administered in the 2011–2012 school year as it used for the 2010–2011 school year will help increase the quality of instruction for students and improve the academic achievement of students by removing the pressure of meeting escalating AMOs so that educators and other stakeholders within the state can devote necessary time and resources to planning for the implementation of ESEA flexibility, which the ALSDE needs additional time to do.

Set forth below in Tables 1-7 are Alabama’s current AMOs in reading/language arts and mathematics and the AMOs that Alabama will use for Grades 3-8 and 11 if approved for the One-Year AMO Flexibility.

### Table 1 Alabama’s AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010–2011</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2012</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.

### Table 2 Alabama’s AMOs for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010–2011</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2012</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.
### Table 3: Alabama’s AMOs for Reading /Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.

### Table 4: Alabama’s AMOs for Reading /Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.

### Table 5: Alabama’s AMOs for Reading /Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOs in Accountability Workbook</td>
<td>AMOs under One-Year AMO Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SEA’s approved Accountability Workbook.
Table 6 Alabama's AMOs for Reading /Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>AMOs in</strong></td>
<td><strong>AMOs under</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accountability</td>
<td>One-Year AMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workbook</td>
<td>Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 – 2012</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SBA's approved Accountability Workbook.

Table 7 Alabama's AMOs for Reading /Language Arts and Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Reading/Language Arts</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>AMOs in</strong></td>
<td><strong>AMOs under</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2010 – 2011</td>
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<td>2011 – 2012</td>
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<td>97</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AMOs under the One-Year AMO Flexibility for the 2012–2013 and for the 2013–2014 school years will be the same as in an SBA's approved Accountability Workbook.

Prior to submitting this request, Alabama teachers, leaders, college and university faculty, and lay citizens reviewed the Alabama Standards and the Common Core State Standards and compiled the best of both into the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts reflective of the aspirations Alabamians hold for all public school students to be prepared for college, career, and the workforce. On November 18, 2010, Alabama adopted these college- and career-ready content standards that meet the definition of “college- and career-ready standards” in the document titled **ESEA Flexibility**, as Alabama has adopted content standards that are common to a significant number of states. Attached hereto is evidence that Alabama has formally adopted these standards consistent with the state’s standards adoption process.

The ALSDE hereby assures that it currently provides student growth data on current students and students taught in the previous year to teachers of reading/language arts and mathematics in Grades in which the state administers assessments in those subjects in a manner that is timely and informs instruction, consistent with the timelines and definitions required under State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) Indicator (b)(2).

Further, the ALSDE has identified persistent achievement and graduation rate gaps within the state that need to be closed. As evidence of this identification, attached to this letter is a table that sets forth statewide achievement data, including proficiency rates and achievement gaps, for the “all students” group and identified student subgroups based on the most recent three years of data. The ALSDE hereby assures that it will report these data publicly by posting the data in a format that is easily understandable on its website on a page that is easily accessible by the public.
The ALSDE further assures that it will take all steps necessary to plan for the implementation of ESEA flexibility and will submit a request for ESEA flexibility. The ALSDE understands that if it fails to submit a request for ESEA flexibility or if its request is not approved prior to the time it must make AYP determinations based on assessments administered in the 2012–2013 school year, the ALSDE will revert to using its currently approved AMOs for the 2012–2013 and the 2013–2014 school years, meaning that all schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) in the state will be held accountable for reaching 100 percent proficiency by 2014.

Also attached is the notice the ALSDE has sent to LEAs in our state regarding this waiver request and the comments received as a result. Further, we have attached the notice provided to the public through the ALSDE public website.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail at (334) 242-9700 or tbice@alsde.edu if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

Attachments: Board meeting agenda and minutes, notice provided to LEAs, LEA comments received, and notice provided to the public
Statewide Achievement Gaps in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Graduation Rates by Subgroup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Graduation rate data for school year 2010-2011 is based on the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate calculations.

Note: A gap for a particular year is the difference between the percentage of students proficient in the particular subject or graduating in the "all students" group and the percentage of students proficient in the subject or graduating in the indicated subgroup. A negative gap indicates that the subgroup is performing below the "all students" group; a positive gap indicates that the subgroup is performing above the "all students" group.
Dear Dr. Bice,

Thank you for striving to bring reason to the current AMO status across the state of Alabama. Yes, we as committed educators want ALL of our students to be fully proficient in every academic area which implies that each student is fully college and career ready when they graduate from high school. Having realistic AMOs each year for the past decade in the areas of reading and mathematics guided our instruction in a way that saw tremendous gains across the state. As we have moved forward marching toward the goal of perfection, however, I feel we have become more attuned to marching than to supporting individual student goals and needs. By granting a one year pause in the process we can look more closely at our students AND their data, instead of just data, to more efficiently analyze what exactly is needed.

I applaud your efforts. Thank you for supporting ours.

Becky Fearon
Director of Curriculum
Jacksonville City Schools
123 College Street SW
Jacksonville, AL 36265
256-782-8210
How do the proposed changes in AMOs help for the 12-13 and 13-14 school years?

Mrs. Joan Frazier
Superintendent
Anniston City Schools
(256) 231-5000
We support the AMO Flexibility Option.

**Gina Johnston**
Demopolis City Schools
Federal Programs Coordinator
Secondary Education Coordinator
334-289-1670 Ext. 5
Pam Burgess [pburgess@attalla.k12.al.us]
Wednesday, May 02, 2012 11:54 AM
amocomment
Comments

After reviewing the State Department of Education memo dated April 26, 2012, and the proposal for the One Year Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) Flexibility Option, the Attalla City School System would like to add its endorsement to this plan. As stated in the information provided this would allow school systems in Alabama to move towards improving student learning and give the school system time to increase the quality of instruction.

Thanks,

Pam Burgess
Accountability and Assessment Coordinator
Psychometrist
After reviewing the proposed flexibility request and with comprehensive knowledge of the school system's measured annual progress, the Mobile County Public School System is in agreement with and heartily endorses the AMO One-Year Flexibility Option. In this progressive school district maintaining the 2010-2011 AMOs for another year is viewed as a realistic and practical approach for measuring and reporting academic progress. The one-year option will provide additional time to ensure in-depth student learning through continued quality instruction and RTI (response to instruction) which targets academic success for all students at rigorous levels. Mobile County Public School System looks forward to the forthcoming ESEA Flexibility Plan and under the direction of the Alabama State Department of Education will plan and identify resources to effectively implement the plan.
State of Alabama
Department of Education
Thomas R. Bice, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

News Release:
May 4, 2012

Contact: Malissa Valdes-Hubert
334-242-9952
mvaldes@alsde.edu

Notice of One-Year Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)
Flexibility Option Request Opportunity

Montgomery, AL - The Alabama Department of Education has an opportunity to submit a request to the United States Department of Education for temporary flexibility of Section 1111(b)(2)(H) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, to permit Alabama to use the same Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) that Alabama used for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations based on assessments administered in the 2010-2011 school year to make such determinations for the 2011-2012 school year.

The purpose of this flexibility is not to give states and districts a reprieve from accountability, but rather to move toward an aligned system of school accountability and provide the necessary flexibility at the state and local levels to improve our schools. The AMO One-Year Flexibility Option will allow school districts to better focus on improving student learning and increasing the quality of instruction.

Written comments may be emailed to amocomment@alsde.edu by May 8, 2012.
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Gordon Persons Building • P.O. Box 302101 • Montgomery, AL 36130
Telephone (334)242-9700 • Fax (334)242-9708 • Website:www.alsde.edu

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News Release:
May 7, 2012

Contact: Malissa Valdes-Hubert
334-242-9952
rvaldes@alsde.edu

AGENDA
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012
9:30 A.M.
GORDON PERSONS BUILDING AUDITORIUM
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Resolution Commending Natasha D. Sims, Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter, April – June 2012
- Resolution in Appreciation of State Department of Education Employees
- Resolution Commending the 2012-2013 Alternate Teacher of the Year
- Resolution Commending the 2012-2013 Alabama Teacher of the Year
- Resolution Commending the 2012-2013 District Finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year
- Resolution Recognizing Alabama Public Television’s 2012 Young Heroes
- Resolution Commending Munford Elementary School, Talladega County School System, as State Nominee and National Winner for the United States Department of Education Green Ribbon School 2012 Award (State School Board District III)
- Resolution Commending Winterboro High School, Talladega County School System, as State Nominee and National Winner for the United States Department of Education Green Ribbon School
2012 Award (State School Board District III)
- Resolution Commending Mill Creek Elementary School, Madison City School System, as State Nominee for United States Department of Education Green Ribbon School 2012 Award (State School Board District VIII)
- No Child Left Behind Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO) One-Year Freeze Request
- Resolution for Approval of Teacher Education Programs, Alabama A & M University, Huntsville, Alabama
- Resolution to Authorize Review of a Teacher Education Program, University of Mobile, Mobile, Alabama
- Approval of Personnel Recommendation
- Superintendent’s Report
- Legal
- Date, Time, and Place of Next Elementary/Secondary Education Meetings

May 24, 2012, Work Session, Plaza 104 Gordon Persons Building
June 14, 2012, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium, Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama

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Approval to Request AMO One-Year Freeze

STATE OF ALABAMA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

AGENDA
THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012
9:30 A.M.
GORDON PERSONS BUILDING AUDITORIUM
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY EDUCATION

A. Call to Order
B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
C. Roll Call – Establishment of a Quorum
D. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of April 12, 2012
E. Approval of Agenda
F. Public Hearing for Alabama Administrative Code
G. Action Items
   1. Unfinished Business – None
   2. New Business
      a. Resolution Commending Natasha D. Sims, Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter, April – June 2012
      b. Resolution in Appreciation of State Department of Education Employees
      c. Resolution Commending the 2012-2013 Alternate Teacher of the Year
      d. Resolution Commending the 2012-2013 Alabama Teacher of the Year
      e. Resolution Commending the 2012-2013 District Finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year
      f. Resolution Recognizing Alabama Public Television’s 2012 Young Heroes
      g. Resolution Commending Munford Elementary School, Talladega County School System, as State Nominee and National Winner for the United States Department of Education Green Ribbon School 2012 Award (State School Board District III)
      h. Resolution Commending Winterboro High School, Talladega County School System, as State Nominee and National Winner for the United States Department of Education Green Ribbon School 2012 Award (State School Board District III)
      i. Resolution Commending Mill Creek Elementary School, Madison City School System, as State Nominee for United States Department of Education Green Ribbon School 2012 Award (State School Board District VIII)
      j. No Child Left Behind Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO) One-Year Freeze Request
      k. Resolution for Approval of Teacher Education Programs, Alabama A & M University, Huntsville, Alabama
      l. Resolution to Authorize Review of a Teacher Education Program, University of Mobile, Mobile, Alabama
      m. Approval of Personnel Recommendation
H. Superintendent's Report
I. Legal
J. Date, Time, and Place of Next Elementary/Secondary Education Meetings
   May 24, 2012, Work Session, Plaza 104 Gordon Persons Building
   June 14, 2012, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium, Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery, Alabama
May 10, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: To Whom It May Concern

FROM: Ann Starks, Executive Secretary
       Alabama State Board of Education

RE: No Child Left Behind Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO) One-Year Freeze

This is to confirm that the Alabama State Board of Education, during its meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2012, approved the No Child Left Behind Annual Measureable Objectives (AMO) One-Year Freeze as requested by Dr. Thomas R. Bice, State Superintendent of Education. This action was done in a motion by Mrs. Mary Scott Hunter and seconded by Dr. Yvette Richardson. The Board voted unanimously in support of the motion. For your information, attached is a copy of the agenda.

Please contact me if additional information or clarification is needed.

AS

Attachment