



## **U.S. Department of Education Offers Flexibility on No Child Left Behind**

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**By Jennifer Smith**

Today, the Department of Education outlined a plan to provide flexibility to all states and districts from the requirements of provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – or No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Under the plan, States that adopt reforms targeted at the following issues will receive flexibility from NCLB:

- **Transitioning to College- and Career-Ready Standards and Assessment:** States must have adopted college and career-ready standards in reading/language arts and mathematics designed to raise the achievement of all students, including English learners and students with disabilities.
- **Developing Systems of Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support:** States must develop systems that give credit for progress towards college- and career-readiness.
- **Evaluating and Supporting Teacher and Principal Effectiveness:** States must set basic guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems.

If States qualify for flexibility, they will receive waivers exempting them from requirements including (1) flexibility around how the State sets its annual targets for schools and student subgroups, (2) waiver of the requirement that schools be labeled as failing for not making all of their AYP targets, and (3) flexibility to use funds by transferring funds between funding streams.

More information regarding the flexibility plan can be found at the Department of Education's [website](#).

### **More Information**

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