



Montana

Office of Public Instruction

Proposed Adjustments to the ESSA Accountability System

Addendum to the 2019-2020 Waivers and a limited Waiver for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Identification

Office of Public Instruction Staff

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Key Definitions

- The addendum process, if allowed by the Department, would be for temporary changes designed to address the impact of missing data from the 2020–2021 school year. In other words, it is a solution the Department has granted states through the OPI’s current ESSA State Plan Addendum Process to “look backwards”.
- The waiver process under ESEA-ESSA Section 8401 is intended to provide states with relief from statutory requirements.
- The amendment process is for changes in 2020–2021 and beyond. It addresses the current school year and “looks forward” by design.



Purpose of Accountability System Addendum and Waiver for TSI

- On March 30, 2020, Montana OPI received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) for testing, accountability and reporting.
- Then, this fall the USED created a streamlined process, the COVID-19 Addendum, to account for one-year changes that were a result of the 3/2020 waiver.
- Given that Montana cannot adequately calculate an academic growth measurement, or some of the measures of Montana's fifth flexible indicator for School Quality and Student Success (SQSS), it cannot meet the requirement to differentiate all public schools based on all five required indicators.



Purpose of Accountability System Addendum and Waiver for TSI

- Because the waiver addendum does not apply to the annual requirement to identify Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools, which are schools with one or more consistently underperforming subgroups for three consecutive years, Montana is also seeking a specific TSI waiver.
- These proposed changes do not preclude Montana from submitting amendments or additional waivers to gain greater flexibility in the future.



Implications of the Addendum and TSI Waiver on the identification of CSI and TSI Schools

Through the Addendum and the TSI Waiver, Montana proposes to address the following components of the accountability system:

- Shifts forward timelines by one year to 2022-2023 for identifying CSI and ATSI schools because the growth indicator and the Student Quality or Student Success (SQSS) indicator cannot be calculated in 2020-2021.
- Shift exit criteria for CSI and ATSI schools to be in 2022-2023 based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.
- Shifts forward timelines by one year for measuring long-term goals and measurements of interim progress.
- Waive annual requirement to identify TSI schools in 2020-2021 for consistently underperforming subgroups.



Timeline and Public Comment Process

Date	Milestone
December 14, 2020	Start public comment
January 18, 2021	Consult Governor
January 7, 2021	Webinar 1 for public input
January 14, 2021	Webinar 2 for public input
January 15, 2021	Board of Public Education
January 15, 2021	Survey closes
January 19, 2021	Education Advocates
January 21, 2021	Webinar 3 for summary of comment.
<i>February 1, 2021</i>	Submission