

**State's Request for Additional Flexibility under
SFSF Indicators (b)(1), (c)(11), and (c)(12)**



**U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202**

**OMB Number: 1810-0695
Expiration Date: September 30, 2014**

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0695. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 16 hours per response per indicator, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Program, Implementation and Support Unit, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Room 7E214, Washington, D.C. 20202.

**State's Request for Additional Flexibility under
SFSF Indicators (b)(1), (c)(11), and (c)(12)**

State: Puerto Rico

1. The Governor and the Chief State School Officer jointly request that the U.S. Department of Education (Department):

(check applicable boxes)

- Extend from January 31, 2012 to December 31, 2013 the deadline by which the State must develop and implement a statewide longitudinal data system under Indicator (b)(1) that includes the 12 elements of the America COMPETES Act.

- Extend from January 31, 2012 to December 31, 2013 the deadline by which the State must have the capacity to collect and publicly report student enrollment data under Indicator (c)(11) for high school graduates who enroll in in-State public institutions of higher education (IHEs).

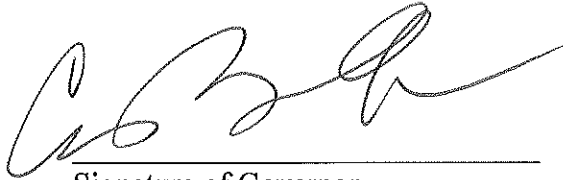
- Authorize the State to use the alternative standard to meet the requirements of Indicator (c)(11) for high school graduates who enroll in in-State private, out-of-State private, or out-of-State public IHEs.

- Extend from January 31, 2012 to December 31, 2013 the deadline by which the State must have the capacity to collect and publicly report course completion data under Indicator (c)(12).

2. The Governor and the Chief State School Officer assure that, within 60 days of the date of submission of this request, the State will submit to the Department the applicable revised plan(s) as described in the "Notice of Final Revisions to Certain Data Collection and Reporting Requirements, and Final Priority."

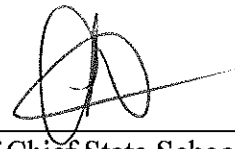
3. The Governor and the Chief State School Officer assure that, by December 31, 2013, the State will meet the requirements of the applicable indicator(s) for which it received additional flexibility.

Carlos Portalatín Esteves
Printed Name of Governor
(or authorized representative)



Signature of Governor
(or authorized representative)

Edward Moreno Alonso, Ed. D.
Printed Name of Chief State School
Officer (or authorized representative)



Signature of Chief State School Officer
(or authorized representative)

15 March 2012
Date

13 March 2012
Date

CHECKLIST FOR REQUESTING ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY UNDER SFSF INDICATORS (b)(1), (c)(11), and (c)(12)

A State's request for an extension of the deadline for meeting the requirements of Indicators (b)(1), (c)(11), and (c)(12) under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program or for authority to use the alternative standard under Indicator (c)(11) must include the following information:

1. The request form signed by the Governor and the Chief State School Officer or their authorized representatives. The request form must identify the additional flexibility that is being sought.
2. A description of the State's current capacity to meet the requirements of the applicable indicator(s). (For Indicator (b)(1), the State must identify which of the 12 elements of the America COMPETES Act are currently incorporated in its statewide longitudinal data system. A template to provide this information is attached to this checklist.)

Not later than 60 days from the date of submission of the State's request for additional flexibility, the State must submit a revised plan for each applicable indicator that includes the following information:

1. Timelines, specific milestones, and a detailed description of appropriate strategies that the State will implement to ensure that it will meet the requirements of the applicable indicator by December 31, 2013;
2. Identification of the agency or agencies, including key personnel, in the State responsible for the development and implementation of the revised plan for the applicable indicator;
and
3. An overall budget, including the funding sources, that is sufficient to support the development and implementation of each revised plan.

ATTACHMENT DESCRIBING STATE'S CURRENT STATUS IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SFSF INDICATOR (b)(1)

The State's statewide longitudinal data system currently incorporates the following elements of the America COMPETES Act: *(check all relevant elements)*

Note: *Puerto Rico is currently developing its SLDS. Technically speaking, because it is not operational yet, it does not comply with any of the requirements regarding SFSF Indicator (b)(1), as identified below. This being said, however, it should be pointed out that Puerto Rico's SLDS will receive data from several of the SEA's current transactional systems. Such systems, in their current state, comply with some of the requirements described below, as specified herein.*

With respect to preschool through grade 12 education and postsecondary education –

- 1. A unique statewide student identifier that does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system.
Puerto Rico has a unique statewide identifier at the state K-12 level. The current SLDS initiative intends to use this and not identify students individually. Another step recognized by the project is that, down the line, this shall be done for all P-20 levels.
- 2. Student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information.
This is available in feeder systems at the K-12 and postsecondary levels. At the preschool level it is partially available. The SLDS initiative shall address it.
- 3. Student-level information about the points at which students exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop out, or complete P–16 education programs.
This is available in feeder systems at the K-12 and postsecondary levels. At the preschool level it is partially available. The SLDS initiative shall address it.
- 4. The capacity to communicate with higher education data systems.
This is not being done today, and shall become an objective of the SLDS initiative.
- 5. A State data audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability.
This is not being done today, and shall become an objective of the SLDS initiative.

With respect to preschool through grade 12 education –

- 6. Yearly test records of individual students with respect to assessments under section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)).
The records are available and are already defined to be within the scope of the K-12 portion of the SLDS initiative.
- 7. Information on students not tested by grade and subject.
The records are available and are already defined to be within the scope of the K-12 portion of the SLDS initiative.
- 8. A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students.
This is already available at the K-12 level, and the SLDS initiative will exploit it.
- 9. Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned.
This is already available at the K-12 level, and the SLDS initiative will exploit it.
- 10. Student-level college readiness test scores.
The raw data is available, and its integration with the SLDS has been included within the scope of the initiative.

With respect to postsecondary education, data that provide –

- 11. Information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework.
This will be part of the scope of the SLDS initiative.
- 12. Other information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education.
This will be part of the scope of the SLDS initiative.

NOTE: In addition to providing this information on the State's current status in meeting the requirements of Indicator (b)(1), a State must also provide the other items included in the "Checklist for Requesting Additional Flexibility under SFSF Indicators (b)(1), (c)(11), and (c)(12)."

**ATTACHMENT DESCRIBING STATE'S CURRENT STATUS IN MEETING THE
REQUIREMENTS OF SFSF INDICATOR (c)(11)**

Puerto Rico currently does not comply with this requirement. To comply, the state intends to use the SLDS (currently under development) to produce the number and percentage of students receiving a regular high school diploma who enroll in the in-state network of public IHEs within 16 months. Also to comply, the state intends to obtain authorization to use the alternative standard.

Assuming that it is authorized to follow the alternative standard, Puerto Rico intends to be able to demonstrate how it increased its capacity to collect and publicly report data on students who enroll in private or out-of-state public IHEs. Although the final strategy has not been sealed yet, the intent is that of exchanging information with local private IHEs.

**ATTACHMENT DESCRIBING STATE'S CURRENT STATUS IN MEETING THE
REQUIREMENTS OF SFSF INDICATOR (c)(12)**

Puerto Rico currently does not comply with this requirement. To comply, the state intends to use the SLDS (currently under development) to produce the number and percentage of students who complete at least one year's worth of college credit (applicable to a degree) within two years of enrollment in the in-state public IHE (University of Puerto Rico).