



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

April 4, 2012

The Honorable Luis G. Fortuño
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 9020082
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-0082

Dear Governor Fortuño:

As you know, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) required each State receiving funds under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program to provide assurances in four key areas of education reform: (1) achieving equity in the distribution of effective teachers; (2) improving the collection and use of data; (3) standards and assessments; and (4) supporting struggling schools. Under this statutory authority, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) established specific data and information requirements (assurance indicators and descriptors) that a State must meet with respect to those assurances. In its application for funding under the SFSF program, each State committed to reporting on the indicators and descriptors. Making this information publicly available provides transparency on the extent to which a State is implementing the actions for which it provided the assurances. In addition, increased access to and focus on these data better enable States and other stakeholders to identify strengths and weaknesses in education systems and to determine where concentrated reform effort is warranted.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Department has approved Puerto Rico's FY2012 request for flexibility in meeting the SFSF requirements. Specifically, we have extended until December 31, 2013 the deadline by which your State must meet the requirements of Indicators (b)(1), (c)(11) and (c)(12). In addition, your State has received approval to use the alternative standard to meet the requirements of Indicator (c)(11).

In its request for this additional flexibility, Puerto Rico provided a description of its current status for meeting the SFSF data collection and reporting requirements. We remind you that your State must provide, within 60 days of its flexibility request, a revised plan for how it will meet the requirements of the applicable indicators by the December 31, 2013 deadline.

(For further information on the requirements of the revised plan, please see <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/final-extension-request-january-2012.doc>.)

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

I appreciate the efforts that Puerto Rico has taken to make more transparent the extent to which the State is making progress in key education reform areas. Increased access to and focus on this information better enable States and other stakeholders to identify strengths and weaknesses in education systems and to determine where concentrated reform effort is warranted.

If you have any questions about the extension or the revised plan requirements, please contact Jim Butler of my staff at James.Butler@ed.gov or 202-260-9737.

Sincerely,



Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation Support Unit

cc: Jim Butler
José I. Campos Perez

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