



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

OCT - 1 2012

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Honorable Edward Moreno
Secretary of Education
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Department of Education
P.O. Box 190759
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00919-075

2012 OCT - 5 PM 1:30
OFICINA DE ARCHIVO
CONGRESO DE PUERTO RICO

Dear Secretary Moreno:

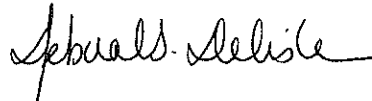
I am pleased to approve Puerto Rico's standards and assessment system under Title 1 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended. I congratulate you on meeting this important ESEA requirement.

My decision is based on the input of peer reviewers external to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) and Department staff who reviewed and carefully considered the evidence submitted by Puerto Rico. I have concluded that the evidence demonstrates that Puerto Rico's standards and assessment system satisfy the ESEA standards and assessments requirements. Specifically, Puerto Rico's system includes academic content and student academic achievement standards in reading/language arts, mathematics and science; alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in those subjects; assessments in each grade level for grades 3 through 8 and grade 10 in reading/language arts and mathematics; assessments in science in each of the three required grade spans; and alternate assessments for each subject. Accordingly, Puerto Rico's system warrants **Full Approval with Recommendations**. This status means that Puerto Rico's standards and assessment system meets all statutory and regulatory requirements, but that the assessment system could be strengthened in some ways. Specifically, it is recommended that Puerto Rico continue to review alignment in general, and specifically item bank and item-development specifications, and strengthen depth of knowledge (DOK) in the item writing specifications for ongoing improvement in assessments.

Please be aware that approval of Puerto Rico's standards and assessment system under the ESEA is not a determination that the system complies with federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. Finally, please remember that, if Puerto Rico makes significant changes in its standards and assessment system, the State must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval.

We found it a pleasure to work with your staff on the reviews during the period of the compliance agreement. Please accept my congratulations for your State's approved standards and assessment system under the ESEA. I wish you well in your continued efforts to improve student achievement in Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah S. Delisle".

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

cc: Governor Luis Fortuño
Pura Cotto Lopez