

January 13, 2010

Federal Accountability Update: Final Decisions on Proposed Amendments to the 2010 Texas AYP Workbook

Final decisions regarding the required amendments to the 2010 AYP calculations are summarized in the following table. The proposed amendments to the Texas AYP calculations will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) on January 15, 2010.

Title I COP Update of November 10, 2009

On November 10, 2009, the Title I COP members were provided a Federal Accountability Update to review amendment requests in order to meet Final Title I regulations for Graduation Rate, specifically:

- The state's definition of graduation rate,
- A description of the state's reporting plans,
- The state's goal and targets, and
- Possible use of the Extended-Year Graduation Rate.

The update also outlined the state's intention to submit amendment requests limited to the AYP calculations for the 2009-2010 school year. The End of Course assessment program will require major changes in the way AYP is determined in 2011-2012 and beyond. A proposed transition plan for 2010-2011 through 2013-2014 will be submitted for the 2011 Texas AYP Workbook that will include long-term goals and targets for the graduation rate calculations.

Background on Title I Regulations

On October 29, 2008, the USDE published final regulations referred to as the "2008 Title I regulations." These regulations amended the "other academic indicators" that States use in defining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and included new requirements for calculating graduation rate, the other academic indicator for high schools.

Final Title I regulations require States and local school districts to report and use the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, disaggregated by student group, in AYP determinations based on 2011-2012 assessment results. States may apply to the USDE for approval to use an extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rate as part of its AYP calculations. The final Title I regulations also require each State to set a goal and targets for high school graduation and to incorporate the goal and targets into its AYP definition, beginning in 2009-2010. All states are required to submit proposed amendments to their AYP calculations to the USDE by January 15, 2010.

Please note that changes to the following summary table since the TI COP presentation of November 10th are highlighted.

FINAL DECISIONS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2010 TEXAS AYP WORKBOOK

Topic	Requested Amendment	Summary/Information
Graduation Rates:	Texas requests the use of both the 4-year and 5-year graduation rates	<p>The Class of 2009 four-year graduation rate is required for the AYP 2010 calculations.</p> <p>Texas will request the use of the Class of 2008 five-year graduation rate as an alternative for meeting the AYP standard.</p>
Use in AYP:	<p>Texas requests that districts and campuses meet either:</p> <p>annual target for the 4-year rate or annual target for the 5-year rate</p>	<p>This method is one of examples for use of 5-year rates found in US Department of Education, <i>NCLB High School Graduation Rate, Non-Regulatory Guidance</i>, December 22, 2008.</p>
Goal:	<p>Texas identifies the long term statewide goal of 90% graduation rate.</p>	<p>Other state graduation rate goals:</p> <p>100% (Georgia) 90% (Alabama, Maine, Rhode Island, New Mexico, Tennessee) 88.3% (South Carolina) 80% (Michigan)</p>
Calculation for 4-year rate ("target"):	<p>Absolute standard for 4-year rate: 75.0% (current standard is 70%) or Improvement standard: safe harbor (10.0% decline in the difference between the prior year rate and the goal) or 1.0 percentage point increase in rate.</p>	<p>Examples found in <i>NCLB High School Graduation Rate, Non-Regulatory Guidance</i> show a safe harbor calculation as an acceptable "target," as an alternative to the absolute standard.</p>
Calculation for 5-year rate ("target"):	<p>Absolute standard for 5-year rate: 80.0%</p>	<p>Federal regulatory requirements state that if an extended-year rate is used, the target must be higher than the target for the 4-year rate.</p>
Targets for 2011 and beyond:	<p>Absolute standards for 2011 and beyond are not included in the 2010 AYP Amendment requests, although the improvement standard would apply to 2011 and beyond.</p>	<p>Justification: Submission of proposed amendments to the 2011 Texas AYP Workbook will include a transition plan for new End of Course assessments with annual graduation rate targets submitted as part of the transition plan.</p>
Student group definition changes:	<p>Texas will identify students in the limited English proficient (LEP) graduation rate student group as students served by the LEP program during any of their years in Texas public schools.</p>	<p>Federal regulations allow states to develop business rules for the definition of student groups used for AYP.</p> <p>The current definition of the LEP student group is defined as students in the LEP program during their final (4th) year in the longitudinal cohort.</p>