

August 4, 2014

Members of the Utah State Board of Education

Dear Members of the Board:

We, the undersigned, the business community and local school board members, respectfully request that the Utah State Board of Education seek a continuation of the ESEA I Flexibility Waiver currently in effect. We believe there are significant reasons to support our recommendation as listed below:

- The State Board of Education and the Utah education community requested and were subsequently granted an ESEA I Flexibility Waiver under the provisions of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to give Utah greater control over its education programs and methods for assessing successful practices. A rejection of the Waiver places Utah back under the provisions of NCLB, thus increasing federal involvement rather than diminishing it. Moreover, the idea of shifting the policy platforms of the state back and forth is unnecessarily disruptive to those who must administer the educational programs of the state.
- The Utah School Superintendents Association is unanimously in favor of continuing the Flexibility Waiver.
- According to correspondence with the Utah School Boards Association, many local school board members favor continuation of the Waiver.
- Rejection of the Waiver would cost the state at least \$26.5 million and perhaps more when the full implications of moving back to the NCLB provisions are fully realized.
- The loss of \$26.5 million would most likely affect the Title I schools in the state, thus putting some of our most vulnerable students at greater risk of not completing school successfully.
- There is no clear plan for replacing the possible loss of \$26.5 million. A special session of the Utah Legislature seems very unlikely and a request for replacement funds for a future fiscal year will have to compete with all of the other important demands facing the state. With no clear plan in the works, the loss of funds seems to be an ill-prepared and ill-timed initiative.
- Business leaders in the state have a vital interest in the success of our K-12 schools. As a key stakeholder, surely the perspectives and support of the business community are an important part of any successful plan for improving education in the state.

We acknowledge that federal policy making has made educational programs difficult to manage, but the Waiver seems to ease the burden. We realize that since there has been no discussion with the business community that we represent, we may not fully understand the motives and rationale for the proposed rejection of the Waiver. Until we do understand the motives and rationale of this policy change and can be convinced that it fits into the long-term success of our education system, we cannot support the initiative to reject the ESEA I Flexibility Waiver.

Sincerely,

Rich Kendall
Education First

Alan Hall
Prosperity2020

Lane Beattie
Salt Lake Chamber

Robert Marquardt
Management & Training
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Olene Walker

Michael O. Leavitt

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Employees Health Systems

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M. Scott Jolley
Cedar City Chamber of Commerce

Jim Smith
Davis Chamber

Gary Birdsall
South Salt Lake Chamber of
Commerce

Dale Zabriskie

James Jardine

Randy Shumway

Dan Campbell
EsNet Group

Stan Parrish

We, the Undersigned, Individual, Local School Board Members Support the letter from
the Business Community Regarding ESEA Waiver

August 2, 2014

Rich Brotherson, North Sanpete
Brent Richardson, Weber
Connie Anderson, Granite
Gayleen Gandy, Granite
Connie Burgess, Granite
Julene Jolley, Granite
Dan Lofgren, Granite
Sarah Meier, Granite
Terry Bawden, Granite
Kristi Swett, Salt Lake City
Jim Webster, Grand
Marjorie Tuckett, Murray
Mitzi Huff, Murray
Belinda Johnson, Murray
Cris Longhurst, Murray
Darrell Pehrson, Murray
Tamra Lowe, Davis
Barbara Smith, Davis
Erin Jensen, Piute
Derrin Jensen, Piute
Tamalyn Calder, Rich
Peter C. Cornia, Rich
Scott Sabey, Rich
Ralph Johnson, Rich
Burdette Weston, Rich
Moe Hickey, Park City
Michael Boyle, Park City
Dale D. Whitlock, Juab
Bruce A. Galbraith, Morgan
Clint Johnson, Sevier
Bryan Smith, Box Elder
Connie Archibald, Box Elder
Lynn Capener, Box Elder
Karen Cronin, Box Elder
James Fuller, Box Elder
Nancy Kennedy, Box Elder
Heather Young, Box Elder
Rick B. Ainge, Nebo
Dean Rowley, Nebo
Rick Dalton, Piute
Joyce Sudweeks, Piute
Marty Morgan, Piute
Carol D. Kimball, Millard
Beverly P. DeWyze, Millard
Ronald T. Draper, Millard

John C. Burton, Alpine
JoDee Sundberg, Alpine
S. Scott Carlson, Alpine
Deborah Taylor, Alpine
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Ann Horner, Wasatch
Debbie Jones, Wasatch
Shad Sorenson, Wasatch
Mark Davis, Wasatch
Dean L. Oborn, Weber
Doug Hurst, Weber
Scott Hansen, Weber
Jon Ritchie, Weber
Craig Hicken, South Summit
Ken Platt, Garfield
Mike Savage, Garfield
Melaney Draper, Garfield
Myron Cottam, Garfield
Cheryl Cox, Garfield
Peggy Jo Kennett, Jordan
Richard Osborn, Jordan
Janice Voorhies, Jordan
Kathy Frandsen, South Sanpete
Larry Smith, South Sanpete
Ellen Aste, South Sanpete
David Warren, South Sanpete
Kim Pickett, South Sanpete
Connie Morgan, Logan
Becki Bronson, Iron
Ann Geary, Logan
Maresa Manzione, Tooele
Carol Jensen, Tooele
Scott Bryan, Tooele
Julie Holt, Tooele
Alan Mouritsen, Tooele
Karen Nelson, Tooele
Kathy Taylor, Tooele
Beth Joseph, Grand
Peggy Nissen, Grand
Melissa Byrd, Grand
Bryon Walston, Grand
Tania Knauer, Park City
Nancy Garrison, Park City
Stephen Allen, Iron