



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

NOV 03 2014

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
State of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

Thank you for your letter of September 11, 2014, to Secretary Duncan regarding your interest in starting a dialogue between Connecticut and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) officials regarding student assessment. I am pleased to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

I am also pleased to learn that you share ED's commitment to ensuring that student assessments are used wisely. I acknowledge and appreciate your work last year to pilot a tool to help districts take stock of their overall testing system; it is encouraging to hear that you have made that tool available to all districts in Connecticut this year. I also appreciate your work with educators, administrators, and other stakeholders to consider and develop potential approaches to student assessment within Connecticut. Nevertheless, I share your belief that there is more that we can and must do to fully address this matter.

You asked about the options available to address concerns in your State about the testing schedule for 11th-graders. We are happy to discuss with you potential ways to address this important issue. As you know, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), requires students to be assessed using a statewide assessment once in tenth through twelfth grade; States have discretion to determine that assessment.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to us, as well as for your continued focus on enhancing education for all of Connecticut's students.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

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