Utah ESEA Flexibility

Approved Plan: http://www.schools.utah.gov/data/Educational-Data/Accountability-School-Performance/Utah-ESEA-Flexibility-Request.aspx

Flexibility Overview
- Based on Utah Core Standards, Utah assessment philosophy, Utah accountability system and Utah educator evaluation plan.
- Utah did not give up anything in the negotiation process with the US Department of Education.
- Utah retains complete control of its standards, assessment, accountability and educator evaluation policies and plans.
- Allows Utah to move forward with Utah priorities and lessen federal constraints.

Principle 1: College and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students
- Continued adoption of Utah Core Standards
- Implementation of Adaptive Assessment System
- Continued adoption/implementation of WIDA ELP Standards

Principle 2: State-Developed differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support
- Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS)
  - Replaces both AYP and UPASS and removes all Yes or No school designations
  - Developed by a stakeholder group in response to SB 59 in the 2011 legislative session
  - Includes both student achievement and growth in a composite score for each school
  - Based on two groups: all students and below proficient students
  - Incorporates Student Growth Percentile (SGP) a growth metric based on individual student growth, comparing each student’s growth to their academic peers

- “Priority Schools”
  - The lowest-performing 5% of Title I schools; for Utah a minimum of 14 schools.
  - The fifteen schools that are currently identified and being served under the Title I School Improvement Grant (SIG) process will be identified as Priority Schools.

- “Focus Schools”
  - The next lowest-performing 10% of Title I schools; for Utah a minimum of 28 schools.
  - Focus schools will be identified based on one of three criteria:
    - lowest-performing Title I schools using a two-year average of the composite score from the new UCAS; or
• Title I served high school with graduation rate below 60%; or
• Title I school not achieving AMOs with the largest achievement gaps

• “Reward Schools”
  o The USOE will annually recognize two categories of Title I Reward Schools, High-performing and High-progress.
    ▪ High-performing Title I Schools: Schools will be identified based on highest levels of achievement and above average performance on growth
    ▪ High-progress Title I Schools: Schools will be identified based on highest levels of growth and above average performance on achievement
  o Schools will be recognized through a press release, certificate of achievement, letters to the LEA superintendent or charter leader, and to the building principal to be shared with the school community.

• AMOs
  o Federal Requirement
  o Utah’s Minimum Compliance Plan
    ▪ AMOs not used in any UCAS calculation.
    ▪ AMO trajectory will reduce in half the percent of non-proficient over six years
    ▪ AMOs will be established separately for each subgroup at each school
    ▪ UCAS reporting will list the AMO and performance of each school subgroup.
    ▪ AMO reporting page will be a drill down page in the UCAS report.

**Principle 3: Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership**
• The Board has adopted Board Rule R277-531, a framework for educator evaluation that outlines the following provisions for all educators:
• Yearly evaluations for all educators based on:
  • Student growth
  • Instructional effectiveness based on classroom observations
  • Parent/student input from stakeholder surveys
• Evaluation results to be used in decision making for professional development, compensation, and employment
• Results reported to the Board on a yearly basis
• Each LEA must adopt model system being developed by the State Board or implement a district system that is based on the adopted board framework

**Principle 4: Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden**
• An SEA should remove duplicative and burdensome reporting requirement that have little or no impact on student outcomes
• Addressed in Utah legislation in 2011 and 2012