



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

January 16, 2018

Honorable Johnny Key  
Commissioner of Education  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 304-A  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Commissioner Key:

I am pleased to approve Arkansas' consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), to implement the requirements of covered programs under the ESEA and of the amended McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act). I congratulate you on this significant accomplishment.

My decision regarding Arkansas' consolidated State plan is based on input from U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff who reviewed and carefully considered the plan submitted by Arkansas. Consistent with ESSA, the Department conducted a peer review of the sections in your consolidated State plan related to Title I, Part A and Title III, Part A of the ESEA and Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Act. The Department only reviewed information provided in Arkansas' consolidated State plan that was responsive to the Revised State Plan Template for the Consolidated State Plan that was issued on March 13, 2017. I have concluded that Arkansas' consolidated State plan satisfies those requirements. Accordingly, Arkansas' consolidated State plan that was submitted on January 16, 2018, warrants full approval.

Arkansas' consolidated State plan remains in effect for the duration of the State's participation in the programs covered by the plan. Each State is responsible for administering all programs included in its consolidated State plan consistent with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements even if those requirements are not addressed in Arkansas' plan. Arkansas must periodically review and revise the plan as necessary to reflect changes in the State's strategies and covered programs. If Arkansas makes significant changes to its consolidated State plan at any time, such as changes to its accountability system or long-term goals, Arkansas must submit information about those changes to the Department for review and approval. The Department will provide information on the process for amending a State plan at a later date.

Please be aware that approval of Arkansas' consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the State plan comply 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. It is Arkansas' responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Please note that this letter, with Arkansas' approved consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website.

It has been a pleasure working with your staff on this review. Please accept my congratulations for Arkansas' approved consolidated State plan. Thank you for the important work that you and your staff are doing to support the transition to the ESSA and most importantly to lead Arkansas' students to achieve at high levels. The Department looks forward to working with you to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

/s/

Betsy DeVos

cc: Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas