



## **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Waiver Workgroup November 4 Meeting Summary**

The NCLB Waiver Workgroup met for the fourth time on Friday, November 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to discuss Minnesota's waiver request. The meeting began with a question and answer session with Commissioner Brenda Cassellius. Commissioner Cassellius outlined MDE's vision for the NCLB Waiver and explained the policy goals behind Minnesota's proposal. The Commissioner also took questions and listened to comments from the Workgroup.

The Workgroup then listened to a description of current state statute related to federal accountability. The group looked specifically at the statute language surrounding adequate yearly progress, reporting of accountability data and growth calculations. MDE reiterated its desire to work within current state statute and pursue changes to state statute only if they were necessary.

The Workgroup then listened to a description of the other three principles the state must satisfy in order to receive the NCLB Waiver. There was a discussion of college- and career-ready standards, principal and teacher evaluation systems and the reduction of administrative burdens. It was explained that for all three principles, no changes will be necessary for Minnesota to receive the waiver.

The Workgroup then moved on to a discussion of MDE's proposals for the NCLB Waiver. The group worked off of the NCLB Waiver Subject Area Decisions form to provide feedback and ask questions related to specific proposals. The greatest amount of discussion was related to the measurements used to measure schools for accountability purposes. The group was generally supportive of using the four measurements on the Multiple Measurements Chart (proficiency, growth, gap reduction and graduation rates) but emphasized the importance of treating all schools equally. Specifically, the group requested that the lists of Priority, Focus and Reward Schools not be based on proportional representation of charter schools and district-affiliated schools. The Workgroup also requested that all percentile rankings reported publicly be based on all schools in the state, not just Title I schools. MDE is working with the data to finalize the waiver proposals in these areas.

The Workgroup spent the final hour registering final feedback and input on the general NCLB Waiver request. Upon concluding the meeting, the Department expressed a desire to keep the Workgroup intact so it could offer feedback into the implementation of the waiver or if changes are necessary following the federal peer review process. The Workgroup was also encouraged to continue to submit comments on the NCLB Waiver Subject Areas Decision form through Tuesday, November 8.

There are no more scheduled meetings of the NCLB Waiver Workgroup at this time.