



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

May 18, 2026

The Honorable Joseph Graves  
Secretary of Education  
South Dakota Department of Education  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2235

Dear Secretary Graves:

I am writing in response to the South Dakota's request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). South Dakota submitted its request on February 26, 2026.

I have determined that the amendment requests meet ESEA requirements; accordingly, I am approving South Dakota's amended State plan. A summary of South Dakota's amendment is enclosed. This letter, as well as South Dakota's revised ESEA consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website. Any further requests to amend South Dakota's ESEA consolidated State plan must be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment is not a determination that all the information and data included in the amended 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 South Dakota's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Thank you for the work South Dakota has invested in its consolidated State plan under the ESEA. If you need any assistance regarding its implementation, please contact the Office of School Support and Accountability at: [OESE.TitleI-A@ed.gov](mailto:OESE.TitleI-A@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Kirsten Baesler  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosure

cc: Matthew Gill, South Dakota Department of Education

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
<http://www.ed.gov/>

### **Amendment to the South Dakota Consolidated State Plan**

The following is a summary of South Dakota’s amendment request. Please refer to the Department’s website (<https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/oese/key-documents>) for South Dakota’s complete consolidated State plan.

#### **Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies**

- The South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE) updated its more rigorous State-determined actions for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) schools that do not meet the State’s exit criteria within the State-determined number of years. CSI schools in this category will be required to implement a comprehensive analysis of its school-level systems, and incorporate evidence-based interventions and ongoing monitoring.

#### **Title IV, Part B: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers**

- SD DOE will require that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC applicants use data from any month of the prior school year to determine school eligibility; expand its subgrantee monitoring to ensure academic enrichment requirements are met; and prioritize applications targeting TSI and CSI schools, in specific geographic regions, and in alignment with the State’s evidence-based literacy initiative.