

**Waiver Request**

**AYP**

**Adequate Yearly Progress**




# The request from TEA is intended to:

1. Eliminate duplication
2. Align state and federal standards
3. Add flexibility to 1200 Texas school districts




# TEA's justification for the AYP waiver:

- The Texas system surpasses the requirements of the ESEA statute.
- Texas is a national leader in college and career readiness. Three years ago we created the Texas College and Career Ready Standards.
- This year (2013-14) Texas is transitioning to a differentiated accountability and interventions system.



# Challenges and the reason for waiver request:

- Even though Texas continues to move forward with rigorous accountability for principals, teachers and students, the failure of congress to reauthorized ESEA (The Elementary and Secondary Education Act)
- Current ESEA is obsolete and doesn't adequately reflect performance of the state's schools.
  - In 2012 more Texas graduates scored 3 or higher on AYP exams than in 2002
  - Using the US Dept. of educations new graduation rate calculation, Texas is tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for the highest graduation rate. Texas is number 1 in graduation rates for Asian, African-American and White students.
  - In 2011 Texas Hispanic and African American students earned the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest score on the eighth grade NAEP mathematics test.



# Summary of TEA's request if approved:

- Texas would use a single system based on STAAR. (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)
- Texas would continue to build on our own rigorous standards for principal certification and teacher certification system.



# TEA's waiver request:

- **Title I School Improvement Funds at the LEA:**
  - TEA would distribute 95% of the required 4% reservation to Title I schools that are designated at priority schools. The 4% reservation is a requirement of Section 1003(a) that requires TEA to reserve this amount of its Title I, Part A allocation for school improvement activities. Current regulations prohibit TEA from using any of this reservation at the LEA level.
- **Accountability System:** Asks for a waiver from the federal Accountability Performance Targets/Standards Setting Procedures. TEA would like to replace the federal Accountability Performance Targets/Standards Setting Procedures with TEA accountability and rating system.



## TEA's waiver request: continued

- **Support and Intervention:** TEA would like to identify schools for graduated levels of support and intervention based on the states accountability system instead of using AYP's regulations.
- **Implementation of a Single Intervention System:** TEA would like to use improvement activities that they developed that are more aligned to our state accountability system.
- **State Accountability System:** TEA would like to use its performance rating system instead of current AYP regulations



## TEA's waiver request: continued

- **Statewide System of Support:** TEA would like to use its support and intervention system instead of current AYP regulations
- **Teacher Certification:** TEA would like to use its Teacher Certification system instead of current
- **Small, Rural and Low-Income Schools:** TEA would like for any school that receives Small, Rural Schools Achievement money or Rural and Low-Income Schools Program funds to use those funds for any authorized purpose whether they meet state accountability targets.





## TEA's waiver request: continued

- **Intervention Regardless of Poverty Percentage:** TEA would like for schools to be able to implement school wide interventions in any of its support, focus or priority schools even if they don't have a poverty percentage of 40 % or more.
- **Reward Schools:** TEA would like to use funds reserved in this section for any school that the state determines to be a reward school.
- **Funding Transferability:** TEA would like all schools and TEA to be able to transfer up to 100% of authorized between the fund and into Title I, Part A.



## TEA's waiver request: continued

- **School Improvement Grant:** TEA would like to award School Improvement Grant funds to a school to implement one of the four School Improvement Grant models that TEA determines are priority schools.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers:** TEA would like to use these funds to support learning time during the school day to meet the needs of students as well as non-school hours.
- **Rank Ordering of Priority Schools:** TEA would like to allow schools to serve Title I eligible high schools with a graduation rate below 60 percent that TEA has identified as a priority school regardless of whether the school ranks high enough to be served under current Title I, Part A rank order of poverty to get funds based on that rank ordering.