



Title Programs and Services

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Notice of Intent to Submit Title I Waiver Request

The Kansas Department of Education intends to request from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) a waiver on behalf of USD 418 McPherson Unified School District. The request is to waive Title I, Part A, Subpart 1, Section 1111(a)(3)(A) and Section 1116(a)(1)(A) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to permit USD 418 to pilot the use of assessments by ACT in place of state assessments and to use the results from those assessments in accountability decisions for the 2010-2011 school year.

The Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) is soliciting comments— both supporting and non-supporting – on the waiver below. All comments submitted during the comment period will be read and taken into consideration. Providing comments to the KSDE does not guarantee all comments will be implemented. This notice meets the notification requirements under Section 9401(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. **Districts and the public are invited to submit written comments to the KSDE no later than 5:00 PM (CDT) on February 28, 2011.** After that date, the KSDE will submit those comments to the ED. Submit written comments to Judi Miller at judim@ksde.org or via fax at 785-296-5867.

The Kansas State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education are in favor of USD 418 McPherson Unified School District's request for a waiver from some of the accountability and assessments requirements in Title I Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. By approving the waiver request, we believe that USD 418 McPherson will be piloting a growth model of assessment and accountability that will have students who are college and career-ready by the time they graduate from high school.

Dr. Randy Watson, superintendent of USD 418, presented the district's initiative of system redesign entitled *Citizenship, College and Career Readiness, C³* to the Kansas State Board of Education on June 8, 2010. The State Board encouraged the district to go forward and seek waivers from the US Department of Education. The State Board is excited about the model of meaningful assessments and a higher standard articulated in the district's initiative.

The initiative proposes having students in grades 6-12 take the ACT Explore, Plan, ACT and WorkKeys assessments in reading, math and science instead of the Kansas assessments. Grades 3-5 will continue to take the Kansas assessments. In addition, Dr. Watson has assured us that students with disabilities and English language learners will participate with appropriate assessments and be included in accountability decisions.

The Kansas State Department of Education staff is ready to assist USD 418 McPherson as it launches its C³ initiative. KSDE will work with the district to ensure that their students are assessed and the district and its schools are held accountable for students learning and meeting higher standards.