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## ESSA State Plan: Recommendation Form

<b>Development Cycle No:</b>	<b>Decision Point No(s):</b> 43	<b>Author:</b> Mulloy
<b>Date submitted:</b> 10/13/16		<b>Bounce Team Coordinating:</b> CFP
<b>ESSA Citation:</b> 1114(a)(1)		<b>ESSA Page Number:</b> 66-67 - - <a href="#">Link to ESSA</a>
<b>Question(s) being considered:</b> The process for granting waivers to Title I schools wishing to operate as a Schoolwide Program but their poverty % is not at the required 40%.		
<b>What ESSA requirements need to be met?:</b> "A school that serves an eligible school attendance area in which less than 40 percent of the children are from low-income families, or a school for which less than 40 percent of the children enrolled in the school are from such families, may operate a schoolwide program under this section if the school receives a waiver from the State educational agency to do so, after taking into account how a schoolwide program will best serve the needs of the students in the school served under this part in improving academic achievement and other factors."		
<b>Solution being proposed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CFP Team will coordinate the process.</li> <li>• All Title I schools with less than the required 40% poverty rate will be notified that they may operate as a Schoolwide Program if they receive a waiver. The notification will include the potential benefits and risks of operating as a Schoolwide Program.</li> <li>• Waiver application will be distributed by the CFP Team to the LEAs and then submitted by the LEAs to the CFP Team in late winter/early spring (before the CFP application is open). The waiver request should be signed by both the principal and superintendent and include the school's needs assessment and continuous improvement plan (CIP).</li> <li>• The CFP Team will convene a review panel consisting of representatives from each Title, representatives from the Education Quality Team, and representatives from ISL Team, and other appropriate staff from VTAOE.</li> <li>• The review panel will determine if the needs assessment is complete (includes data from IFRs and results from State assessments as well as other pertinent data), if the CIP addresses the needs identified in the assessment, and if the proposed actions will result in improved student academic achievement. The panel will also determine if the funds will be used to supplement state and local funds (§1114 (a)(2) and if the CIP contains the required elements outlined in §1114(b)(7).</li> <li>• Waivers will be granted for a period of up to three years at which time, the review panel will assess if the school has been successful in meeting the goals of their CIP and resulting in improved student achievement. If the panel determines the plan is obtaining the desired results, the waiver will be continued.</li> </ul>		
<b>Rationale:</b> Explain why your proposal supports each decision logic element below: <i>Equity:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed solution will allow all schools to comprehensively address their specific school needs through the allowed combining of funds under a Schoolwide Plan.</li> </ul> <i>Alignment with current VT policy and practice:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As an approved Ed-Flex state, Vermont has been granting waivers for schools under 40% poverty to operate as Schoolwide Programs under NCLB. The proposed solution continues this but improves the process by coordination with other appropriate VTAOE staff.</li> </ul> <i>Efficiency (streamlining processes, eliminating duplicative systems or requirements):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed solution aligns with the procedures and documents the Education Quality Team is requiring of schools identified for improvement under ESSA accountability as well as with required school actions in the Education Quality Standards.</li> </ul>		



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*Possibility (implementation feasibility for the AOE and impacted stakeholders):*

- Since all schools are required to do a needs assessment and CIP under the EQS, they will have the documentation needed for the waiver. The CFP Team at VTAOE has experience in waiver processes currently required and will easily be able to implement this requirement.

**Identify any known or potential risks associated with your proposed solution:**

- Known: During the previous waiver cycle, schools were granted waivers until a new reauthorization was passed. With changes in staff at the local level, many may not know that they are operating as a schoolwide under a waiver and that they will need to re-apply.
- Known: Additional technical assistance will need to be provided to CFP Team leaders and other LEA staff in order to guide them through the Schoolwide Plan development process.
- Potential: Schools receiving a waiver may need support to ensure that funds continue to augment the education of their most vulnerable students as intended by the legislation.

**What are the expected benefits associated with your proposed solution:**

- Alignment of Schoolwide Plans with CIP requirements (alignment with Education Quality work and alignment with EQS requirements).

Secretary's Decision

Date: 10/14/16

Initials:

Handwritten initials in blue ink, appearing to be "RH".

Confirm recommendation of ESSA State Plan Management Team

Reject recommendation of ESSA State Plan Management Team and offer the following as an alternative: