



# Update on the District of Columbia's ESEA Waiver Extension and Plans Moving Forward

The District of Columbia has received a one-year extension to its Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver. The waiver provides the District extended relief from some of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements in exchange for moving forward with the District's education reform agenda that is currently underway. This document provides useful information about the District's ESEA waiver and new assessments.

## The key changes in the ESEA waiver extension include the following:

### 2014-2015 School Classifications

The 2014 DC Comprehensive Assessment System results for English Language Arts (ELA) and math were reported and used to make new school classifications. The approved ESEA waiver extension postpones the inclusion of science for school classification to SY16-17.

### The Use of Assessment Results as Part of High-Stakes Decision Making

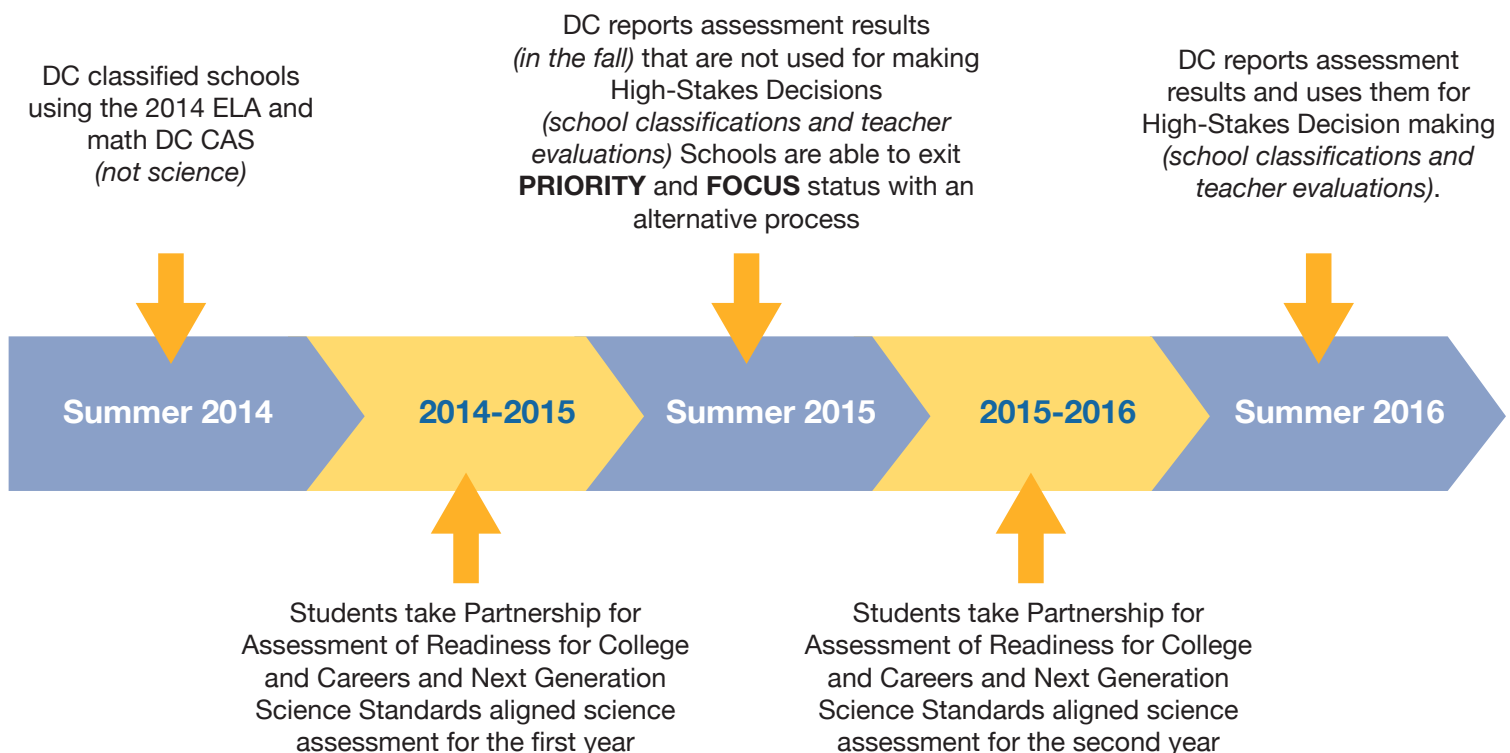
OSSE, in partnership with the DC State Board of Education, is currently preparing an amendment that would exclude high-stakes decision making during the first year of implementing a new assessment. This includes:

- Pending approval by the DC State Board of Education, no school classifications will be made following SY14-15. Results from the new assessments (ELA, math and science) will be reported and used to set a new baseline to measure growth the following year.

- OSSE will design an alternative process for schools to show meaningful progress and exit **PRIORITY** and **FOCUS** status.
- The District will reclassify new **PRIORITY** and **FOCUS** schools following the second year of the new assessments—SY15-16. All tested subjects (ELA, math and science) will be used to classify schools.
- Pending approval by the DC State Board of Education, teachers will not be required to be evaluated based on student growth measured by the state assessment. The requirement to use the state assessment to calculate the student growth measure will be reintroduced following SY15-16 when the baseline is established in the first year.

### A New Science Assessment

- During SY14-15, OSSE will introduce a new assessment that is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.



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