



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF  
*Acting Commissioner*

November 3, 2011

TO: District Superintendents  
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Andrew Smarick  
Acting Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AS", written over the printed name of Andrew Smarick.

SUBJECT: **NCLB Waiver Application**  
**Deadline for Comments: November 9, 2011**

On September 23, the US Department of Education announced that the federal government would invite states to apply for flexibility from the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). States would be granted flexibility in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. The first application deadline is November 14.

Over the past month, the Department has solicited input from educators and community members across the state on the federal government's guidelines. We collected comments through our website over two weeks in October, and met with both educators and the leadership of teachers unions and professional associations to solicit recommendations.

Before finalizing the application, the Department is soliciting additional comment on the draft outline of our application. This document captures the findings from our initial outreach and additional work done by the Department.

Because such changes would have a major impact on our state's educators and families, we are soliciting input from K-12 stakeholders and the broader public on this draft outline.

A copy of the draft outline and the form for public comment can be found at the link below.  
**Submissions will be received through November 9, 2011.**

<https://education.state.nj.us/esea2/>