



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 3, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Office of the Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

I am writing in response to the amendment request submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) on September 23, 2014, by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC proposed an amendment requesting minor budget adjustments to several projects already approved for a no-cost extension.

As you know, the Department has the authority to approve an amendment to your plan and budget provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved grant project. The Department's February 28, 2011, letter establishes the review process for any amendment to PARCC's approved plan. In determining whether to approve this request, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the February 28 letter.

Through this amendment request, PARCC proposes minor changes in the areas of Assessment Development, Educator Leader Cadres, K-2 Formative Tools, and Project Management, generally requesting to use small amounts of funds identified for year 4 in the no-cost extension period. The consortium requests reallocation of \$44,000 from Governance year 4 to Project Management in the no-cost extension period. By realigning these budgets, PARCC will ensure that it maximizes value, reliability, and quality of the resulting work.

The Department **approves** this amendment requesting budget adjustments during the no-cost extension period for the purpose of finalizing assessment development, Educator Leader Cadre work, K-2 formative tools, and project management through August 1, 2015.

It is our understanding that this amendment and no-cost extension will not result in a change to PARCC's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that we expect grantees to liquidate all funds by September 1, 2015, given that, by law, all Race to the Top Assessment funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2015. The Department is not awarding any additional funds through this amendment approval. The consortium must request and receive approval to move forward with no-cost extensions for any additional projects.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

The grantee remains responsible for complying with all terms and conditions of the grant award and with all statutory and regulatory obligations. Florida, as the fiscal agent for the grant, remains responsible for ensuring that all activity related to the grant is done in accordance with all terms and conditions of the grant award and with all statutory and regulatory obligations.

As noted in our communication of February 28, 2011, this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a public record of the amendment proposal and consideration. If you need any assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica McKinney at (202) 401-1960 or Jessica.McKinney@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Rooney
Acting Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Lillian Lowery, Maryland Department of Education
Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
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