



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

April 6, 2015

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Office of the Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

I am writing in response to the amendment request submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on February 6, 2015, and updated on March 16, 2015, by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC proposed an amendment totaling \$416,272 reflecting changes in the budgets for certain studies and external experts.

ED 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. ED's February 28, 2011, letter establishes the review process for any amendment to PARCC's approved plan. In determining whether to approve this request, ED has applied the conditions noted in the February 28 letter. Through this amendment request, PARCC proposes reallocating funds previously identified due to a lower-than-anticipated final cost of a cognitive complexity study and elimination of a content alignment study as a result of other similar research currently ongoing by another entity. The consortium requests permission to apply these funds to the achievement standard-setting preparation and to support from external experts to ensure continuous improvement. PARCC is maintaining all such funds in the research and psychometrics budget module, shifting them among projects within that budget.

ED approves this amendment request related to the no cost extension period through August 1, 2015. It is ED's understanding that this amendment will not result in a change to PARCC's performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that ED expects 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. ED is not awarding any additional funds through this amendment approval.

The grantee remains responsible for complying with all terms and conditions of the grant award and with all statutory and regulatory obligations. Maryland, 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. Please note that approval of this amendment, including the projects identified, does not constitute approval of the assessment system. Each State assessment system will be required to demonstrate compliance with ED's peer review process for State assessments. More information about that process will be forthcoming later this year.

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<http://www.ed.gov/>

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

As noted in our communication of February 28, 2011, this letter will be posted on ED'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 of my staff at (202) 401-1960 or at: Jessica.McKinney@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

cc: Lillian Lowery, Maryland Department of Education
Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Laura Slover, PARCC, Inc.
Mary Ann Snider, Rhode Island Department of Education
Kristy Michel, Maryland Department of Education
Tilda Johnson, Maryland Department of Education
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