



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 25, 2013

The Honorable Rick Scott
Executive Office of the Governor
PL05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing in response to the amendment request submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) on July 15, 2013 as updated by technical corrections submitted on July 22, 2013, by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC proposed an amendment to support member state sustainability work through coordination by a non-profit organization, PARCC, Inc., composed of the member states.

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.

In January 2013, PARCC states established a non-profit organization called PARCC, Inc. to allow the states to continue coordination work and plan for consortium sustainability. Through this amendment request, PARCC proposes redirecting \$3.7 million to financial management, human resources, legal services, sustainability planning, and transition planning related to PARCC, Inc. in service of PARCC member states. PARCC proposed this amendment in order to strengthen governance and project management capacity during the remainder of the grant period and to allow those states to determine a method for long-term sustainability of the assessment development begun with these grant funds. Continuing to develop the mechanisms the consortium will utilize is an essential part of successful completion of the grant work. The consortium anticipates that supplementing this sustainability work now will allow PARCC states enough time thoughtfully to consider the best ways for them to continue to work together following the grant period to accomplish such ongoing activities as standard setting, research demonstrating the validity and reliability of the assessment system, ongoing assessment development to replenish the item bank, and other activities the states determine they want to undertake together.

PARCC indicated that the efforts outlined in this amendment proposal will be implemented through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between Florida, the fiscal agent for the grant, and PARCC, Inc. Florida will continue to work with PARCC, Inc. through the implementation and execution of work according to the terms of the MOA.

The Department **approves** this amendment. During the first two years of the grant, PARCC experienced challenges with governance and project management necessary to support the assessment system development. As a result, the Department approves this change, in which the consortium is expanding

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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.

its current and future focus on providing a sustainable structure through which PARCC states may support ongoing efforts while planning for operational use of the assessment system developed under this grant. This plan is designed to provide the resources necessary for the consortium to think strategically and over the long term.

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. It is the Department'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.

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//

Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
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