



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 16, 2011

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 August 15, 2011 and updated on August 30, 2011 by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC proposed an amendment redirecting \$1.2 million identified for external consultant support in higher education engagement to augment funds available directly to Governing States for the same purposes.

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 proposal. On February 28, 2011, the Department sent a letter to you indicating the process that would be used to review any amendment to PARCC's approved plan. To determine whether approval could be granted for this request, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the February 28 letter.

I am pleased to approve your request. Under this amendment, PARCC will increase support for Governing States to effectively and regularly engaging their higher education communities. Support to Governing States for this purpose will increase from \$1.2 million to \$2.4 million (increasing from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year per Governing State) while preserving \$240,000 to contract with expert consultants in year four of the grant.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change to PARCC's overall timeline and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope of work. As noted in our communication of February 28, 2011, this approval letter will be posted on the Department's website as a public record of the amendment.

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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.

I am confident that PARCC will continue its bold efforts to create the next generation of assessment systems that will more accurately measure what students know and are able to do. 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/

Anthony W. Miller
Acting Assistant Deputy Secretary, Implementation and
Support Unit

cc: Gerald Robinson, Florida Department of Education
Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Department of Education
Michael Cohen, Achieve
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Linda Champion, Florida Department of Education
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