



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

July 15, 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 requests submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on June 16, 2015, and June 19, 2015 (as updated by the technical amendment sent on July 9, 2015), by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Through these amendments, PARCC revised its budget allocations to reflect the consortium's final expenditures and needs for the remaining funds. This is primarily due to reallocating funds in cases in which work came in under the expected budget. The funds were reallocated across the PARCC budget, in particular to support technology (including an amendment totaling \$1,186,400 for additional warranty support related to technology services), project management, and member State collaboration.

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 not needed for certain contracts to support additional warranty support related to technology services.

ED conditionally approves this amendment request related to the no cost extension period through August 1, 2015. The condition is that PARCC will at its own expense, procure independent auditing and oversight services related to the warranty approved in this amendment request. The grantee will provide ED with a final financial report related to any activity performed under the warranty agreement at the conclusion of the warranty period. 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 on 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.

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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/

Monique M. Chism, Ph.D.
Director, Office of State Support

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
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Tilda Johnson, Maryland Department of Education
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