



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am writing in response to the April 9, 2013, request by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) to adjust its approved budget. The adjustment will allow Smarter Balanced to provide additional funding for consortium management of its field test item writing and scoring contract that will be awarded in spring 2013.

The U.S. Department of Education (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 indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted for this request, the Department applied that process.

We approve the requested budget adjustment. Due to the field test item writing and scoring contract being less than budgeted, \$373,945 will be reallocated to management support for this contract. This funding increase will result in 3.0 full-time equivalent staff, with expertise in mathematics, English language arts, and scoring management, overseeing this contract. The Department agrees with the consortium that having strong oversight of this contract, through which the large majority of items for the assessment system will be developed, is critical to ensuring the development of high-quality items in a timely fashion to support the field test in spring 2014.

This approval letter will be posted on the Department's website as a public record of the amendment. It is our understanding that the consortium's requested budget adjustment

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will not change the consortium's scope of work nor result in a change to the consortium's approved master work plan.

The Department looks forward to ongoing collaboration with Smarter Balanced as the consortium continues to refine its processes for item and test development, including contract management. If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Benecia Tuthill at [Benecia.Tuthill@ed.gov](mailto:Benecia.Tuthill@ed.gov) or (202) 453-5545.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen  
Director, Policy and Program Implementation  
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Randy Dorn, Washington State Superintendent  
Joe Willhoft, Executive Director, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium  
Tony Alpert, Chief Operating Officer, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium  
Michael Middleton, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public  
Instruction  
Stanley Rabinowitz, WestEd