



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 2, 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 July 1, 2013, request by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) to adjust its approved budget. The consortium requested to reallocate \$1,376,862 for technology, consortium sustainability, and project management.

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 consortium's request to reallocate \$781,986 to the technology module to increase funding for the development of a system to certify that an organization meets the Smarter Balanced technology standards, enhance scoring capabilities, and strengthen assessment system applications, and to reallocate \$594,876 to the governance module for project management and for planning for sustainability following the Race to the Top Assessment grant period. The sources that will be used to fund the adjustment are unspent years one and two funds or activities where Smarter Balanced believes funding can be reduced for years three and four.

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

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

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

The Department looks forward to continued collaboration with Smarter Balanced as the consortium continues its progress toward developing a next-generation assessment system. 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