



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 21, 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 amendment request submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) on August 9, 2013, by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) regarding its plan for making its assessments accessible to English learners. 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 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.

Through this amendment request, Smarter Balanced proposes to include a full Spanish translation of the mathematics assessments and provide keyword glossaries for additional commonly spoken languages among the English learners in the consortium's member states. In addition, Smarter Balanced will include an American Sign Language translation for the mathematics assessments and English language arts listening items.

The Department *approves* the consortium's proposal. It is our understanding that this amendment will not change the consortium's scope of work nor result in a change to the consortium's budget or approved master work plan. This approval letter will be posted on the Department's website as a public record of the amendment.

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 appreciates the consortium's commitment to maximizing the accessibility of its assessments for English learners. If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Benecia Tuthill at 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