



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

February 19, 2015

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am writing in response to the amendment request submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on January 23, 2015, by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced). Smarter Balanced proposed budget reallocations totaling \$741,000 and requested to extend its no-cost extension period through February 28, 2015.

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, Smarter Balanced proposes reallocating remaining budget balances to support enhancements to technology projects and Washington fiscal agent personnel salary and benefits expenses. The consortium also requests to extend its previously approved no-cost extension through February 28, 2015.

ED *approves* this amendment request. It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change to Smarter Balanced's performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that we expect 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 as of 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. Washington, 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.

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
<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 [jessica.mckinney@ed.gov](mailto:jessica.mckinney@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary

cc: Randy Dorn, Washington State Superintendent  
Tony Alpert, Executive Director, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium  
Luci Willits, Deputy Executive Director, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium  
Michael Middleton, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction