



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 4, 2013

Superintendent Maurice O. Green  
Guilford County Schools  
712 North Eugene Street  
Greensboro, NC 27401

Dear Superintendent Green:

I am writing in response to Guilford County School's (GCS) request to amend its approved Race to the Top - District grant project. Starting April 25, 2013 GCS submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff in the Implementation and Support Unit (ISU) to support the amendment request. On March 27, 2013, the Department provided the "Scope of Work Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to grantee local educational agencies (LEAs) indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied during the Race to the Top- District scope of work review process. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top – District *Principles*, which are also included in that document.

I approve the following amendments:

- In the GCS Virtual Middle School Optional Budget Supplement (OBS):
  - Change from offering a full virtual middle school to offering select middle school courses and paying for per-student licenses for an adaptive math remediation program in all years of the grant and math bridge courses in Year 1 of the grant. Based upon principal feedback and district surveys, GCS determined math courses would benefit students most on a per-student licensing basis. This change will increase contractual costs by \$33,900, from \$131,100 to \$165,000. The additional funds will be supported by other cost savings.
  - Offer Extended Employment Agreements (EEA) for compensation to teachers based on student enrollment. Teachers will be paid on a per-student basis, which will enable GCS to serve more students. The change will increase teacher personnel cost by \$128,402 to \$841,380.00 for salary and benefits. Initially, GCS had requested funds to pay salaries for four teachers, and the total for teacher

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salaries and benefits was \$712,978.00 in Years 1-4. The additional funds will be supported by the cost savings described below.

- Eliminate the data manager position as a result of offering virtual courses instead of a virtual school. The duties of the data manager will be performed by a coordinator of virtual learning, which is a preexisting position within GCS. The total savings from expunging this position will be \$132,707.08 in Years 1-4.
- Remove \$24,206.40 in Years 1-4 travel expenses initially budgeted for students enrolled in the virtual school to travel to take required State assessments at other locations. The virtual courses will include other summative assessments.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your LEA's performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendments.

Although these amendments do not involve the Personalized Achievement, Curriculum and Environment (PACE) Schools project, the Department looks forward to additional conversations with GCS regarding the status of the project and its approach to implementation.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top-District, please do not hesitate to contact Guilford County School's Race to the Top-District Program Officer, Rachel Provencher, at 202-453-6404 or [Rachel.Provencher@ed.gov](mailto:Rachel.Provencher@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: A. Rashad Slade, Director of Instructional Technology  
Terrence Young, Chief Information Officer  
Jake Henry, Executive Director of Instructional Technology