



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 1, 2013

Superintendent Soner Tarim  
Harmony Science Academy (Harmony Public Schools)  
9321 W. Sam Houston Pkwy  
S. Houston, TX 77099

Dear Superintendent Tarim:

I am writing in response to Harmony Public Schools' (Harmony) Race to the Top – District amendment request. On September 3, 2013, the grantee submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). 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, with the condition outlined below:

- For its Custom Day project, revise the frequency for regrouping students in Custom Day classes. In its application, Harmony described regrouping students in Custom Day classes every six weeks, as part of its ongoing data review process. Starting in SY 2013-2014, Harmony will switch from a six-week data review process to a quarterly data review process, and thus will regroup students in Custom Day classes every quarter. Despite this change in frequency for formal regrouping, educators will continue to monitor student progress and provide feedback to students regularly, conduct data evaluation meetings at the campus, cluster, and district levels on an ongoing basis, and provide a mid-quarter progress report to students on their progress.
- For its Project-Based Learning (PBL) budget, redistribute the PBL supplies allocations across Years 1-4 to align with Harmony's revised PBL

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implementation plan described in the Department's amendment approval letter dated September 18, 2013.

- For its Custom Day budget, reallocate a total of \$1,583,003.40 from multiple budget sources to enable the State to expand its support for Custom Day software licensing fees in Years 1 and 2 to cover higher cost proposals from contractors than was originally anticipated. Specifically, Harmony will reallocate funding originally intended for professional development across Years 3 and 4 of the PBL budget and across Years 1 through 4 of the Custom Day and Implementation and Support budgets. Harmony will use other funding outside of the Race to the Top – District grant to cover the costs of these professional development opportunities.

These amendments are approved with the condition outlined below:

- According to the Race to the Top – District application, grantees are required to set ambitious yet achievable annual goals that are equal to or exceed the State Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) targets for the LEA(s), overall and by student subgroup (as defined in the FY 2012 Notice Inviting Applications), for each participating LEA. On September 30, 2013, the Department approved Texas' request for ESEA Flexibility. Therefore, Harmony must submit revised annual goals for each participating LEA in alignment with the Texas' approved request for ESEA Flexibility and in accordance with the Race to the Top – District application no later than October 15, 2013.

Harmony also provided clarification and updated information related to its list of participating LEAs and schools and the number of participating educators in Table (A)(2): Applicant's Approach to Implementation. See *Appendix 1* for the revised table, which is incorporated into Harmony's Race to the Top – District Scope of Work.

- In its application, Harmony provided a list of participating LEAs in Table (A)(2): Applicant's Approach to Implementation of its application. One of Harmony's participating LEAs, Harmony Public Schools - Fort Worth, was captured in the participation data table but its student outcomes goal data tables were inadvertently left out of the application. In addition, another participating LEA, Harmony Public Schools – Laredo, has been absorbed into a different participating LEA, Harmony Public Schools - San Antonio, since time of the application. As a result, Harmony Public Schools – Laredo data is now incorporated into the Harmony Public Schools – San Antonio participation and student outcomes data tables.
- Since its application was submitted, Harmony restructured its Houston campuses to move sixth grade from the high school to the elementary school. As a result, Harmony revised Table (A)(2): Applicant's Approach to

Implementation to reflect that Harmony School of Science – Houston High covers grades seven through twelve, and Harmony School of Science – Houston (the elementary school) is added to the participating schools list to cover its sixth grade students and educators.

- The number of educators in the application was based on the number of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics teachers in participating schools. Harmony’s plan includes implementation of cross-curricular project-based learning tasks. Therefore, Harmony has updated the number of participating educators to reflect the number of ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies teachers in participating schools.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not 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 amendment.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top - District, please do not hesitate to contact Harmony’s Race to the Top - District Program Officer, Rebecca Zazove, at 202-260-1425 or [Rebecca.Zazove@ed.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Zazove@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Burak Yilmaz, Race to the Top – District Project Director

Appendix 1: Revised Table (A)(2): Applicant's Approach to Implementation

<b>LEA</b> <i>(Column relevant for consortium applicants)</i>	<b>Participating School</b>	<b>Grades/Subjects included in Race to the Top - District Plan</b>	# of Participating Educators	# of Participating Students	# of Participating high-need students	# of Participating low-income students	Total # of low-income students in LEA or Consortium	Total # of Students in the School
Harmony School of Excellence	Harmony School of Excellence	6-8	22	327	87	76	1787	899
Harmony School of Excellence	Harmony School of Excellence - Endeavor	6-8	10	175	136	135	1787	531
Harmony School of Excellence	Harmony Science Academy - Bryan/College Station	6-12	14	172	134	126	1787	370
Harmony School of Excellence	Harmony School of Advancement - High	9-12	26	511	250	236	1787	511
Harmony School of Excellence	Harmony School of Discovery - Houston	6-10	15	258	118	109	1787	751
Harmony School of Excellence	Harmony Science Academy - Houston NW	6-8	13	238	122	106	1787	678
Harmony School of Science - Houston	Harmony School of Science - Houston	N/A	0	0	0	0	741	702
Harmony School of Science - Houston	Harmony School of Science - Houston High	6-10	34	760	397	369	741	760
Harmony Science Acad (El Paso)	Harmony Science Acad - El Paso	6-12	35	518	379	368	1374	876
Harmony Science Acad (El Paso)	Harmony School of Innovation - El Paso	6-11	19	301	217	210	1374	592
Harmony Science Acad (El Paso)	Harmony Science Academy - West Houston	6-9	12	202	98	93	1374	701

<b>LEA</b> <i>(Column relevant for consortium applicants)</i>	<b>Participating School</b>	<b>Grades/Subjects included in Race to the Top - District Plan</b>	<b># of Participating Educators</b>	<b># of Participating Students</b>	<b># of Participating high-need students</b>	<b># of Participating low-income students</b>	<b>Total # of low-income students in LEA or Consortium</b>	<b>Total # of Students in the School</b>
Harmony Science Acad (Fort Worth)	Harmony Science Acad - Fort Worth	N/A	0	0	0	0	1680	620
Harmony Science Acad (Fort Worth)	Harmony Science Academy Grand Prairie	6-12	16	246	163	153	1680	518
Harmony Science Acad (Fort Worth)	Harmony Science Academy - Euless	6-11	20	427	241	229	1680	1035
Harmony Science Acad (Fort Worth)	Harmony School of Nature and Athletics	6-10	17	388	191	179	1680	727
Harmony Science Acad (Fort Worth)	Harmony School of Innovation - Fort Worth	6-12	22	411	178	164	1680	411
Harmony Science Acad (Lubbock)	Harmony Science Acad - Lubbock	6-12	13	195	157	149	573	448
Harmony Science Acad (Lubbock)	Harmony Science Academy - Odessa	6-9	8	99	62	53	573	354
Harmony Science Acad (San Antonio)	Harmony Science Acad - San Antonio	6-12	29	493	309	282	1288	850
Harmony Science Acad (San Antonio)	Harmony School of Innovation - San Antonio	6-8	15	166	124	123	1288	508
Harmony Science Acad (San Antonio)	Harmony Science Academy - Laredo	6-12	22	482	332	314	1288	724
Harmony Science Acad (Waco)	Harmony Science Acad - Waco	6-12	23	351	267	257	2258	688
Harmony Science Acad (Waco)	Harmony Science Academy - Garland	6-10	21	349	202	186	2258	654

<b>LEA</b> <i>(Column relevant for consortium applicants)</i>	<b>Participating School</b>	<b>Grades/Subjects included in Race to the Top - District Plan</b>	<b># of Participating Educators</b>	<b># of Participating Students</b>	<b># of Participating high-need students</b>	<b># of Participating low-income students</b>	<b>Total # of low-income students in LEA or Consortium</b>	<b>Total # of Students in the School</b>
Harmony Science Acad (Waco)	Harmony Science Academy - Dallas	6-12	36	750	625	612	2258	1168
Harmony Science Acad (Waco)	Harmony School of Innovation - Dallas	6-11	17	329	181	158	2258	655
Harmony Science Acad (Waco)	Harmony School of Business - Dallas	6-8	10	89	44	39	2258	423
Harmony Science Academy	Harmony Science Academy Houston High	8-12	34	610	424	404	2245	610
Harmony Science Academy	Harmony School of Innovation - Houston	6-7	12	212	160	153	2245	589
Harmony Science Academy	Harmony School of Ingenuity	6-11	21	301	238	228	2245	624
Harmony Science Academy	Harmony Science Academy - Beaumont	6-12	17	239	137	113	2245	492
Harmony Science Academy	Harmony Science Academy - Houston	6-8	13	148	135	131	2245	352
Harmony Science Academy	Harmony School of Fine Arts and Technology	6-9	19	255	153	147	2245	699
Harmony Science Academy - Brownsville	Harmony Science Academy - Brownsville	6-12	14	253	209	205	344	434
Harmony Science Academy (Austin)	Harmony Science Academy - Austin	6-8	8	143	128	128	1441	380
Harmony Science Academy (Austin)	Harmony Science Academy North Austin	7-12	32	577	313	279	1441	577

<b>LEA</b> <i>(Column relevant for consortium applicants)</i>	<b>Participating School</b>	<b>Grades/Subjects included in Race to the Top - District Plan</b>	<b># of Participating Educators</b>	<b># of Participating Students</b>	<b># of Participating high-need students</b>	<b># of Participating low-income students</b>	<b>Total # of low-income students in LEA or Consortium</b>	<b>Total # of Students in the School</b>
Harmony Science Academy (Austin)	Harmony School of Science - Austin	6-8	14	190	119	107	1441	530
Harmony Science Academy (Austin)	Harmony School of Political Science and Communication	6-9	18	186	71	49	1441	687
Harmony Science Academy (Austin)	Harmony School of Excellence	6-11	23	348	277	254	1441	694
<b>TOTAL</b>		6-12	694	11699	7378	6924	13731	23822