



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 10, 2013

Superintendent Brady Johnson
Iredell-Statesville Schools
549 N. Race Street
P.O. Box 911
Statesville, NC 28677

Dear Superintendent Johnson:

I am writing in response to Iredell-Statesville Schools' Race to the Top-District amendment request. Starting in January 2013, Iredell-Statesville Schools submitted documentation to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff in the Implementation and Support Unit (ISU) to support the amendment requests. 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 its approved application, Iredell-Statesville Schools planned to expand its Student Assistance Program Coordinators (SAPs) program by hiring an additional six SAPs with Race to the Top - District funds, in addition to six locally funded, existing SAP positions. However, due to local budget restraints, Iredell-Statesville Schools will not be able to continue supporting positions with local funds. As a result, there will be six SAPs working with the Race to the Top - District participating schools, rather than 12. The grantee reports that the six SAPs will be able to provide the same level of support because the Race to the Top - District grant supports a smaller set of schools and because the work of the Race to the Top - District grant is more focused than the previous work of the SAPs. There are no implications to the grantee's Race to the Top - District budget.

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

- Iredell-Statesville Schools will hire one Instructional Facilitator rather than two Curriculum Resources Specialists. The grantee initially planned to have the Curriculum Resource Specialists work in collaboration with the Blended Learning Coordinator and school-based Blended Learning coaches to provide aligned professional learning experiences to instructional staff, create new instructional modules, and create lesson-plans and authentic assessments to assess student progress in attaining key learning goals. After further discussion, the grantee believes that the Blended Learning Coaches at each school are better positioned and integrated in the school environment to provide these services and teachers will be more receptive to their support. Currently, most schools participating in the Race to the Top – District grant have a school-based Instructional Facilitator. Adding one additional position will allow every school to have one, dedicated Instructional Facilitator. The grantee will use the funds originally budgeted for the Curriculum Resource Specialists to support the Instructional Facilitator.

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 amendment.

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, Melissa Siry, at 202-260-0926 or Melissa.Siry@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Patrick Abele, Executive Director of IMPACT Learning Grant