



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 28, 2013

Superintendent John P. Welch  
Puget Sound Educational Service District  
800 Oakesdale Ave, South  
West Renton, WA 98057

Dear Superintendent Welch:

I am writing in response to Puget Sound Educational Service District's (PSESD) Race to the Top - District amendment request. On May 13, 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:<sup>1</sup>

- In Project 1: Invest in Teaching and Leading, PSESD will add a .5 FTE Project Manager and .2 FTE administrative support to manage and oversee the Investment Fund. To support these positions, PSESD will move \$203,562 from Years 1-4 Contractual for Investment Fund awards to Years 1-4 Personnel, Fringe, Travel, Other, and Indirect Cost expenses. PSESD will be able to make the same number of awards under the Investment Fund with the slightly reduced budget.

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<sup>1</sup> The Department notes that it is currently reviewing additional amendments for PSESD as part of the Scope of Work approval process.

- In Project 3A: Establish a High-functioning Pre-kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade System Region-Wide, PSESD will add a technical assistance contract to support the work of the pre-kindergarten technical work group and Advisory Committee and coordinate all pre-kindergarten work across the consortium. PSESD will use \$37,584 in savings from revised Personnel, Supplies, and Other cost estimates within this project.
- In Project 4: Expand the Effective Use of Digital STEM Tools, PSESD will add a .2 FTE Assistant Executive Director to lead the efforts in this project and a .5 FTE Project Manager to manage and oversee the Investment Fund. To support these positions, PSESD will move \$340,572.38 from Years 1-4 Contractual to Years 1-4 Personnel, Fringe, Travel, Other, and Indirect Cost expenses. After further research, the grantee revised its cost estimates for STEM Licenses, resulting in \$796,799.00 in savings. PSESD reports that it will still obtain the same services for the revised contractual cost estimates. PSESD will reallocate the remaining cost savings in a later amendment.
- In Project 6: Create an Integrated System of Middle and High School Advising, PSESD will add a technical assistance contract to support the work of the Advisory Committee that supports Projects 6, 7, and 8 and coordinate the work across these projects. PSESD will use \$34,800 in cost savings from Project 6 because the grantee decided not to offer training for school counselors mid-way through SY 2012-2013 based on feedback from school-level personnel. Instead, it will begin its training program in SY 2013-2014. Additionally, the grantee lowered its cost estimates for supplies for its counselor assistants based on a review of their needs. In total, PSESD has identified \$671,550 in cost savings for Project 6.
- In Project 6: Create an Integrated System of Middle and High School Advising and Project 7: Adopt the College Board College and Career Readiness Pathway, PSESD will add a 1.0 FTE Project Manager to manage and oversee the work in these projects. The position will be supported by cost savings in Project 6, described above. Additionally, PSESD will add an administrative support position, totaling .25 FTE to support Projects 6, 7, and 8 in Year 1-4. In total, these positions will require \$447,802.88 in Years 1-4 Personnel, Fringe, Travel, Other, and Indirect Cost expenses that will be split between Projects 6 and 7. PSESD will reallocate the remaining cost savings in a later amendment.
- In Project 8: College and Career Readiness Investment Fund: 1) PSESD will add a .5 FTE Project Manager to manage and oversee the Investment Fund. To support this position, PSESD will move \$272,810.25 from Contractual for Investment Fund awards to Years 1-4 Personnel, Fringe, Travel, Other, and Indirect Cost expenses necessary to support the .5 and the .25 FTE administrative assistant, described in the bullet above. 2) PSESD will use \$5,000 to support contractual personnel to write the Request for Proposals (RFP) in order to expedite the

release of the RFP to member LEAs. PSESD will be able to make the same number of awards under the Investment Fund with the slightly reduced budget.

- In the Program Evaluation project, PSESD will add a technical assistance contract to support member LEAs with data collection and reporting on performance measures and targets. PSESD will use \$149,319 in cost savings from Project 6, described above, and \$15,038 from Project 8: Contractual for Investment Fund awards to support this contract.

It is our understanding that these amendments 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 PSESD's Race to the Top-District Program Officer, Melissa Siry, at 202-260-0926 or [Melissa.siry@ed.gov](mailto:Melissa.siry@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Jessica De Barros