



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 24, 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. Between April 8, and September 29, 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:

- In the Program Evaluation project, shift \$178,383 in cost savings from Year 1 personnel and fringe due to late hiring and revised cost estimates for the Year 1 external evaluation contract to Years 2-4 contractual to support contracts with each member LEA to support collection of formative data to inform grant implementation.
- In Project 3A: Establish a high-functioning pre-kindergarten-3rd grade system region-wide: 1) Shift \$12,750 in cost savings in personnel due to late hiring and a decrease in communication expenses in the Other cost category to Year 2 travel to provide professional development for coaches to learn from experts and practitioners across the county; and 2) Shift \$23,560 in cost savings in personnel due to revised substitute teacher cost estimates and a decrease in membership expenses in the Other cost category to Year 2 travel to allow member LEA leads to travel to a national conference on pre-kindergarten-3rd grade promising practices.
- In Project 5: Career Awareness and Exploration: 1) Shift \$20,500 in Year 1 contractual cost savings due to revised estimates for the contract to support outreach efforts to Year 2 contractual to support the development of a field guide. The field guide will serve as a resource for the development of a regional system to support students in deepening

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their knowledge of potential careers and work-based learning experiences during their K-12 education; and 2) Shift \$295,400 to Years 2-4 contractual to support the design of a regional system to support students in deepening their participating in work-based learning experiences during their K-12 education. To support this work, PSESD will reallocate funds initially intended to support the expansion of an existing website and tools for this project. However, after evaluating the resources, the grantee determined that the existing resources were not appropriate for this project. The grantee will meet this objective through other Race to the Top – District contracts. In addition, PSESD identified Year 1 personnel and fringe cost savings due to late hiring.

- In Project 7: Adopt the College Board College and Career Readiness Pathway, shift \$4,781 in Year 1 personnel cost savings due to late hiring to Year 1-4 contractual to support a translation contract to provide accessible information on the College Readiness Pathway to parents and caregivers who may not be fluent in English.
- In the Deep Dive 3: Investment Fund to Develop Additional Community-School Partnerships project, add a .25 FTE Project Manager to manage and oversee the Investment Fund. To support these positions, PSESD will move \$103,201 from Years 1-4 contractual for Investment Fund awards to Years 1-4 personnel, fringe, 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.

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 PSESD'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: Jessica De Barros