



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 16, 2014

Superintendent Cushenberry
Metropolitan School District of Warren Township
975 North Post Road
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Dear Superintendent Cushenberry:

I am writing in response to Metropolitan School District of Warren Township's (MSD) Race to the Top - District amendment request. Between December 19, 2013 and January 12, 2014, the grantee held conversations with and submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your approved application and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. 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 amendment:

- In Virtual Learning Opportunities (Project 7): create a position for a full-time staff member to develop and oversee this work. MSD asserts that this staff member will be vital to ensure successful implementation of the Virtual Learning Opportunities project. To fund the salary and benefits for this position, MSD will reallocate \$300,000 from the following projects for Years 2 through 4:
 - Environments to Support Engaged Learning project (Project 3): redirect \$100,000 from cost savings achieved in the high school and mediaplex renovations to fund the Virtual Learning Opportunities project; and
 - Grant Implementation project (Project 7): redirect \$200,000 to fund the new position in the Virtual Learning Opportunities project by eliminating the costs associated with the independent evaluator's onsite visit in Year 3. MSD asserts that this will not impact their ability to meet the commitments of their Grant Implementation project and they will

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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.

continue to regularly assess project implementation through an 8-step continuous improvement process. This process includes: biweekly meetings with principals, regular classroom observations, monthly discussions with the teacher's union, learning log meetings, and web-based teacher evaluations.

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 MSD's Race to the Top-District Program Officer, Megan Oberst, at 202-453-5673 or Megan.Oberst@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Lee Ann Kwiatkows

