



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 17, 2012

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
136 State Capitol Bldg.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

I am writing in response to Colorado's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between July 12, 2012 and August 2, 2012, the State submitted amendment requests and clarifying documentation to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On October 4, 2011, the Department posted on its website a revised "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. 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 program *Principles*, which are also included in that document.

I approve the following amendments:

- The State revises its approved Race to the Top budget to reflect the fiscal year for the State and the State's participating LEAs. The budget years are now as follows:

Year 1: December 22, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Year 2: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Year 3: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Year 4: July 1, 2014 to December 22, 2015

www.ed.gov

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

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

Funds shift between years to appropriately reflect the work to be completed in each year. See the Appendix for the revised summary and project-level budget tables. Additionally, in the original budget, the funding subgranted to participating local educational agencies (LEAs) was allocated solely to Year 1. The State has revised the budget to reflect the years in which participating LEAs plan to implement Race to the Top projects. These revisions will permit the State to more effectively manage the funds.

- For project (A)(2) - Race to the Top Management, Colorado will contract with the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) to access comprehensive college enrollment and persistence data. In its Phase 2 Race to the Top application, the State provided in-State data on college enrollment and persistence, which it obtained through the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Now the State plans to use the NSC in order to provide a more comprehensive set of college enrollment and persistence data to track college readiness and for reporting purposes. The State shifts \$16,000 in savings for personnel in Year 1 to contract in Year 2 to fund this work.
- For project (A)(2) - Race to the Top Management, add a position, an Education Pioneer Data Fellow, for Year 2 to create data dashboards containing comprehensive data that can be used to inform strategic support at the LEA level. The Data Fellow will work collaboratively with multiple units at CDE to combine data strategically in order to analyze and present these data in a dashboard environment. The State realized that although it had data on districts' status through the Unified Improvement Planning process, it did not have a centralized process that provided information on district activities, status, grant funding and goals, strategic plans and other data points that would allow for providing individualized support and for monitoring that support. The State did not hire the Content Collaboratives Supervisor in Year 1 and will shift \$60,000 of the personnel savings to Year 2 personnel for the data fellow position.
- For project (B)(3) - Content Collaboratives, eliminate the Content Specialist position. The State has indicated that Content Specialists in the Teaching and Learning Unit will expand their roles to include overall support for the Content Collaboratives, as well as inform the professional development modules to accompany the resources created by the groups. Thus, this position is not needed. Instead, the State will develop a new position, the Assessment Implementation Specialist. The individual in this role will work with LEAs that pilot the professional practices rubric to assist with the development of measures for the student learning component of the education evaluation systems. The Assessment Implementation Specialist will lead the analysis of information gained through the pilot process to help CDE create appropriate and useful guidance for all LEAs. There is no impact on the budget as both positions are budgeted for the same salary and benefits.

It is our understanding that these amendments will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope of work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendments.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Colorado's Race to the Top Program Officer, Cindy Savage, at cindy.savage@ed.gov or (202)453-5998.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Commissioner Hammond
Tricia Miller
Jill Hawley

Appendix: Revised Budget Tables as of August 17, 2012

Summary Budget: This table summarizes the overall budgeted amount for the Race to the Top Phase Three Colorado grant activities by line item and year, including the line item total by year.

	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Total
Personnel	\$219,000	\$1,039,600	\$973,182	\$1,447,613	\$3,679,395
Fringe	\$48,180	\$228,712	\$214,100	\$318,475	\$809,467
Travel	\$78,190	\$583,060	\$346,860	\$327,360	\$1,335,470
Equip	\$52,920	\$14,400	\$14,400	\$21,600	\$103,320
Supplies	\$6,225	\$20,950	\$17,100	\$20,925	\$65,200
Contractual	\$237,000	\$778,079	\$531,248	\$ 495,141	\$2,041,468
Other	\$36,194	\$133,114	\$133,686	\$179,561	\$482,554
Total Direct	\$677,709	\$2,797,915	\$2,230,576	\$2,810,674	\$8,516,873
Indirect	\$27,156	\$128,910	\$120,675	\$179,504	\$456,245
Total Costs	\$704,865	\$2,926,825	\$2,351,250	\$2,990,178	\$8,973,118
Funding Subgranted to Participating LEA's (50% of Total Grant)	\$999,271	\$4,046,126	\$3,439,932	\$487,789	\$8,973,118
Total Budget	\$1,704,136	\$6,972,951	\$5,791,182	\$3,477,967	\$17,946,236

Race to the Top Management - Associated with Sub-criterion (A)(2)(i)(a): This table summarized the budgeted amount for the Race to the Top Management activities by line item and year, including the line item total by year.

	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Total
Personnel	\$ 79,500	\$390,300	\$336,906	\$515,466	\$1,322,172
Fringe Benefits	\$17,490	\$85,866	\$74,119	\$113,403	\$290,878
Travel	\$10,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$31,500	\$83,500
Equip	\$22,040	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$7,200	\$38,840
Supplies	\$675	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$3,375	\$8,550
Contractual	\$0	\$16,000	\$0	\$0	\$16,000
Other	\$6,144	\$15,967	\$15,967	\$23,951	\$ 62,029
Total Direct	\$135,849	\$536,183	\$455,043	\$694,895	\$1,821,969
Indirect Costs	\$9,858	\$48,397	\$41,776	\$63,918	\$163,949
Total Costs	\$145,707	\$584,580	\$496,819	\$758,813	\$1,985,919

Content Collaboratives – Associated with Sub-criterion (B)(3): This table summarized the budgeted amount for the Content Collaboratives activities by line item and year, including the line item total by year.

	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Total
Personnel	\$25,500	\$261,700	\$ 266,934	\$408,409	\$ 962,543
Fringe Benefits	\$5,610	\$57,574	\$58,725	\$ 89,850	\$211,759
Travel	\$0	\$425,100	\$188,900	\$132,450	\$746,450
Equip	\$11,805	\$4,350	\$4,350	\$6,525	\$27,030
Supplies	\$450	\$7,800	\$3,950	\$3,650	\$15,850
Contractual	\$186,000	\$319,831	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$805,831
Other	\$8,800	\$43,447	\$38,304	\$45,646	\$136,197
Total Direct	\$238,165	\$1,119,801	\$711,164	\$836,530	\$2,905,661
Indirect Costs	\$3,162	\$32,451	\$33,100	\$50,643	\$119,355
Total Costs	\$241,327	\$1,152,252	\$744,264	\$887,173	\$3,025,016

Educator Effectiveness – Associated with Sub-criterion (D)(2)(ii), (iii): This table summarized the budgeted amount for the Educator Effectiveness activities by line item and year, including the line item total by year.

	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Total
Personnel	\$114,000	\$387,600	\$369,342	\$523,737	\$1,394,679
Fringe Benefits	\$25,080	\$85,272	\$81,255	\$115,222	\$306,829
Travel	\$68,190	\$136,960	\$136,960	\$163,410	\$505,520
Equip	\$19,075	\$5,250	\$5,250	\$7,875	\$37,450
Supplies	\$5,100	\$10,900	\$10,900	\$13,900	\$40,800
Contractual	\$51,000	\$292,248	\$181,248	\$195,141	\$719,637
Other	\$21,250	\$73,700	\$79,414	\$109,963	\$284,327
Total Direct	\$303,695	\$991,930	\$864,369	\$1,129,249	\$3,289,243
Indirect Costs	\$14,136	\$48,062	\$45,798	\$64,943	\$172,940
Total Costs	\$317,831	\$1,039,992	\$910,168	\$1,194,192	\$3,462,183

STEM: Associated with STEM Competitive Preference Priority: This table summarized the budgeted amount for the STEM activities by line item and year, including the line item total by year.

STEM: Associated with STEM Competitive Preference Priority					
	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Total
Contractual	\$0	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$500,000