



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 13, 2014

The Honorable Jack Markell
Office of the Governor
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street 12th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Governor Markell:

I am writing in response to Delaware's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between January 31 and June 10, 2014, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to support amendment requests to its approved Race to the Top plan. As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided the revisions do not change the overall scope and objectives of the approved proposal. In March 2013, the Department issued "Amendment Requests with No-cost Extension Guidance and Principles" indicating the process by which amendments containing requests to provide additional time for a grantee to accomplish the reform goals and deliverables it committed to in its Race to the Top application and approved Scope of Work would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions and elements specific to no cost extensions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program *Principles* included in the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document issued to Governors of grantee States in October 2011.

I approve the following amendment, including an extension to the time period for implementation.

Extend the timeline through August 31, 2015 for Delaware to link DPAS II and student achievement results to teacher preparation programs and to publicly report teacher preparation program effectiveness data. Originally, the State committed to improve teacher preparation programs by assessing the effectiveness of their participants beginning in fall 2012. The extended timeline is necessary because of DPAS II implementation delays, passage of Senate Bill 51 in June 2013, the State's adoption of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation accreditation system for teacher preparation programs in June 2014, and scheduled adoption of Regulation 290 in July 2014. Collectively, the State believes these changes raise standards for teacher preparation programs in Delaware and allow the State to target teacher preparation programs for support or removal based on program effectiveness data.

During school year 2014-2015, Delaware will analyze educator preparation program DPAS II data from SY 2009-2010 to SY 2013-2014 and use findings to populate the first draft of a scorecard, which will include multiple metrics (*e.g.*, percentage of graduates rated exceeds on DPAS II Component V, percentage of institution/ program graduates hired into Delaware schools, and retention over four years) of program effectiveness. Delaware institutions of higher education (IHEs) and educator preparation programs will review and provide comments on the scorecard during SY 2014-2015. The State will review that feedback and share a revised scorecard via the State's website by August 31, 2015. Concurrently, the State will convene its community of practice of educator preparation programs and IHEs to provide technical assistance and foster best practice and information sharing on the more rigorous preparation program requirements in the State. The State will also publish requirements for annual teacher preparation program compliance reviews and their plan for bi-annual public reporting of program graduate outcomes and annual reporting of DPAS II ratings at the teacher preparation program level.

As described in an April 2, 2014 amendment approval letter, the Department generally approves the State's process to review LEA subgrant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after June 13, 2014. Prior to June 30, 2014, the Department expects the State to submit a record of each participating LEA project approved by the State for a no-cost extension and the total funding approved for LEAs' Year 5 Scopes of Work.

It is our understanding that this amendment and no-cost extension will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that we are expecting grantees with no-cost extensions to liquidate all funds by September 1, 2015, given that by law all Race to the Top funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2015. The State must request and receive approval to move forward with no-cost extensions for any additional projects. This letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of these amendments.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Delaware's Race to the Top Program Officer, Rachael Tutwiler Fortune at 202-205-8651 or Rachael.tutwilerfortune@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Mark T. Murphy, Secretary of Education
Penny Schwinn, Chief Accountability and Performance Officer
Kate Villari, Race to the Top Delivery Unit