



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 16, 2013

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. Between August 27, 2012 and December 12, 2013, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff in the Implementation and Support Unit (ISU) to support an amendment request 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 that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On October 4, 2011, the Department sent a letter and revised "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to Governors of grantee States 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 acknowledge the following performance measure and target updates to Delaware's approved Race to the Top plan were submitted when data availability allowed for informed performance measure and target setting. The changes outlined below will appear in Delaware's Annual Performance Report and are detailed in Appendix A.

- Set performance measures related to STEM initiatives, including the number of STEM Council meetings held, high school STEM courses implemented, and grade levels at which an engineering module is piloted.
- Set targets for college course completion in alignment with the definitions the Department provided in the application.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> College course completion means the number of students who complete at least a year's worth of college credit that is applicable to a degree within two years of enrollment in an institution of higher education.

It is our understanding that these amendments will not 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.

I am confident that Delaware will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. 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 Officers, Patrick Carr at 202-708-8196 or [patrick.carr@ed.gov](mailto:patrick.carr@ed.gov), Rachael Tutwiler Fortune at 202-205-8651 or [rachael.tutwilerfortune@ed.gov](mailto:rachael.tutwilerfortune@ed.gov), or Meredith Farace at 202-401-8368 or [meredith.farace@ed.gov](mailto:meredith.farace@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Mark T. Murphy, Secretary of Education  
Kate Villari, Deputy Officer, Race to the Top Delivery Unit

### Appendix A

Delaware's approved Race to the Top plan intentionally left blank the performance measures related to STEM initiatives and targets for College Course Completion Rate. The State planned to set performance measures and targets when data availability allowed for informed performance measure and target setting.<sup>2</sup> As a result, the State set the performance measures and targets shown in the charts below.

STEM Performance Measures	SY 2011-2012	SY 2012-2013	SY 2013-2014
STEM Council Meetings	4	4	4
High school STEM courses implemented	—	4	6
STEM "Elementary is Engineering" module piloted in each grade level for K-5	—	6	6

College Course Completion Rate Targets	SY 2009-2010	SY 2010-2011	SY 2011-2012	SY 2012-2013	SY 2013-2014	SY 2014-2015	SY 2015-2016
All Students	—	—	—	—	87.0%	88.0%	90.0%

<sup>2</sup> Delays in procuring data sharing agreements with all six in-state institutions of higher education (IHE) did not allow Delaware to track college course completion rates prior to SY 2013-2014. In spring 2013 data sharing agreements were finalized with all six IHE's, enabling Delaware to establish benchmark data and set targets for subsequent years.