



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 September 13 and December 13, 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 approve following amendments:

- For the "SAT and College Readiness" project, shift \$728,887 from unspent Year 2 funds to Year 3. In Year 2, the SAT was administered in April, and the State was not invoiced until the following fiscal year.
- For the "Comprehensive Professional Development Model" project, shift \$542,236 from unspent Year 2 funds to Year 3. The Vision Network experienced no programmatic delays in Year 2; however, the overall budget was less than expected and some Year 2 obligations were paid to the contractor in Year 3. The

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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.

Department anticipates an additional amendment for shifts in future years to account for unspent funds in Year 3.

- For the “Partnership Zones Schools” project, shift \$1,237,050 from Year 2 to Year 3. Race to the Top funds were dispersed to schools after the fiscal year closed due to leadership turnover in the State’s School Turnaround Unit. Partnership Zone schools received their Year 2 allocations later than expected; however, turnaround efforts were not inhibited because School Improvement Grants were allocated earlier in the summer. The Department anticipates an additional amendment for shifts in future years to account for unspent funds in Year 3.
- For the “Academic Achievement Awards” project, shift \$643,006 of unspent Year 2 supplemental funding for participating LEAs to Year 3. Some of the Year 2 awards were made with non-Race to the Top funds; therefore the State only used \$113,594 of the project’s Year 2 Race to the Top budget for this project. The Department anticipates an additional amendment for shifts in future years to account for unspent funds in Year 3.

It is our understanding that the amendments described above 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 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 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 or 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
Kate Villari, Deputy Officer, Race to the Top Delivery Unit