



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 316
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Gray:

I am writing in response to the District of Columbia's Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)'s request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between October 28, 2013 and January 29, 2014, OSSE submitted an amendment request and revisions to the Department regarding its student achievement targets. 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 the amendment outlined below.

- In sub-criterion (A)(2) "State Success Factors", establish student achievement goals for college course completion. In its Race to the Top application, OSSE used a proxy measure to determine its benchmark and annual goals related to college course completion. OSSE indicated at the time of its application that it did not have the capability to measure college course completion. OSSE has determined that it now has the data available to establish these goals. Consistent with OSSE's commitment in its application to gain ten percentage points by School Year 2013-2014, OSSE's revised college course completion targets will be:

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.

	SY 2013-2014	SY2014-2015
All Students	51.2%	54.5%

OSSE will continue to report on the former proxy measure, “Percent of college freshman returning for a second year” in the Additional Measures: Student Outcomes Data of the Annual Performance Report.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in the OSSE’s goals, nor will they substantially change the scope of work. It is our understanding that the OSSE will accomplish within the grant period all of the activities and deliverables articulated in its approved application.

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 the OSSE’s Race to the Top Program Officer, Ariel Jacobs, at 202-453-7025 or Ariel.Jacobs@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Jesus Aguirre, Acting State Superintendent of Education
 Abigail Smith, Deputy Mayor for Education
 Sharon Gaskins, Deputy Assistant Superintendent for Accountability,
 Performance and Support