



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 2, 2011

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 request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. On January 26, 2011, the state submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such changes do not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On January 6, 2011, the Department sent a letter and "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.

All of the District of Columbia's amendment requests addressed minor timeline adjustments; a complete list of these minor timeline adjustments is attached to this letter. These shifts were based on further review and planning by the District of Columbia since the original application was submitted as well as influenced by the actual date on which the District will receive access to its full Race to the Top allocation, in early 2011. It is our understanding that the amendments will not result in a change in your state's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope of work.

I am pleased to approve the amendments included in the attached chart. Please note that both this letter and the attached chart will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendments.

I am confident that the District of Columbia 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 your Race to the Top Program Officer, Rachel Vessey, at 202-453-5545 or [rachel.vessey@ed.gov](mailto:rachel.vessey@ed.gov).

[www.ed.gov](http://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.*

Sincerely,

//s//

Joseph C. Conaty, Ph.D.  
Interim Director, Race to the Top Program

cc:

Hosanna Mahaley  
Richard Pohlman

Item #	Grant project areas affected	Specific Project	Description of change
1	(B)(3): Supporting the Transition to enhanced standards.	Sub-project A3: Design and develop core standards materials	Clarification of the timeline information to extend the management of the vendor (web site) contract through June 2011.
2	(B)(3): Supporting the Transition to enhanced standards.	Sub-project A4: Revise DC-CAS; Create Interim Assessments	Shift in timelines from October-December timeframe to October 2010-January 2011 timeframe. In addition, clarification of sub-project timelines to include the ongoing management of vendor contracts.
3	(B)(3): Supporting the Transition to enhanced standards.	Sub-project C1: Partner with a state Dept. of Education to create Standards Entry Points for Differentiated Learning (manual)	Shift from timeframe of July 2010-June 2011 timeframe to December 2010-June 2011 timeframe to contract with a vendor to deliver PD and work with consortium on documents for trainings. The documents created by the consortium (or OSSE vendor) are expected to be ready by late summer, permitting delivery of training in Fall 2011.
4	(C)(2): Accessing and Using State Data	Sub-project A1: Create website that allows key stakeholders easy-to-use access to data through interactive web functions	Clarification of the start date for the project. OSSE will start in January 2011 and website will go live by Fall 2011.
5	(C)(2): Accessing and Using State Data	Sub-project B1: Determine statewide list of research priorities and encourage research studies through P-20	Shift from Fall 2010 and ongoing timeframe to a January -March 2011 and ongoing timeframe. The policy and procedure was completed in Summer 2010 and refined throughout the Fall. The final product "went live" in Winter 2011.

6	(C)(3) - Use Data to Improve Instruction	Sub-project A4: Award instructional improvement/data systems grants to LEAs	This is part of a process that is already underway. This shift specifically addresses the shift from a January-March 2011 timeframe to a May-June 2011 timeframe. OSSE expects that the LEAs will still sign a contract with an approved vendor by Spring 2011 and implement the new or improved system by Fall 2012.
7	(C)(3) - Use Data to Improve Instruction	Sub-project C1: Publish a list of research priorities for DC and encourage development of studies through P-20;	Shift from October-December 2010 and ongoing to January-March 2011 and ongoing.
8	(C)(3) - Use Data to Improve Instruction	Sub-project C2: Develop an online research request tool for easy access to data	Shift from October-December 2010 to March-April 2011
9	(D)(2): Improving Teacher & Principal Effectiveness Based on Performance	Sub-project A1: Select members of a Student Growth Measure Task Force responsible for overseeing implementation of a measure for all LEAs	Shift from April-June 2010 timeframe to July-October 2010 timeframe.
10	(D)(2): Improving Teacher & Principal Effectiveness Based on Performance	Sub-project A2: Determine the statewide growth measure and draft a concrete plan	Shift from July-September 2010 timeframe to October-February 2011 timeframe. The group will deliver a decision by the first week of February 2011 and a concrete implementation plan by end of month.
11	(D)(2): Improving Teacher & Principal Effectiveness Based on Performance	Sub-project A3: Build relevant data systems	Shift from October 2010-June 2011 timeframe to October 2010-September 2011 timeframe.

12	(D)(2): Improving Teacher & Principal Effectiveness Based on Performance	Sub-project B1: Convene the Student Growth Measure Task Force to: a) develop priority list of grades and content areas for expanded coverage, b) develop specifications for assessments that may be used to identify growth measures that are appropriate for the purposes of teacher evaluation	Shift from July-September 2010 timeframe to January -July 2011 timeframe.
13	(D)(2): Improving Teacher & Principal Effectiveness Based on Performance	Sub-project C1: Publish requirements for teacher and principal evaluation systems	Shift from April-June 2010 timeframe to December 2010-January 2011 timeframe.
14	(D)(2): Improving Teacher & Principal Effectiveness Based on Performance	Sub-project C2: Review plans for LEA Evaluation Systems to ensure that they meet the requirements	Clarification of timeline to indicate that OSSE will review Evaluation Systems prior to Fall 2011 and through continuous monitoring.