



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 6, 2013

The Honorable Rick Scott
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing in response to Florida'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 July 22, and September 5, 2013, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) 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 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 of one project, as described below.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) requested and was approved by the Department on June 10, 2013, to combine projects B.2.6 and B.2.7. Through a competitive request for proposals (RFP), the combined project, funded at a total of \$10 million, will provide professional development on Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in all LEAs and pre-service programs and develop school-level training

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.

materials and tutorials for teachers on the CCSS. According to the State, the timing associated with a transition of FDOE leadership delayed negotiations with a potential vendor.

In order to provide adequate time to pilot CCSS school-level training materials and tutorials with current and future teachers, the State is approved to extend the project period for the B.2.6 and B.2.7 project from September 23, 2014 to July 1, 2015. The State will shift \$2,500,000 from Year 3 and \$2,500,000 from Year 4 of the contractual budget category of the Standards and Assessments - (B)(3)(i) Curricular Tools to Implement the Common Core State Standards project to Year 5 contractual. Development of training materials and tutorials will begin fall 2013, with the pilot scheduled for September to December 2014. Resource delivery will occur January to March 2015. It is the Department's understanding that the State will analyze participant learning gains, based on pilot data, to inform resource improvements prior to full launch January 2014.

In order to consider amendment requests with no-cost extensions, the Department indicated that States must address the timelines and implications of the amendment on the 50 percent LEA subgrants (i.e., allocations to participating LEAs), as well as the process the State will use to review LEA subgrant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after the current project period. As described in the July 17, 2013 amendment approval letter, the Department generally approves the State's process. In addition, consistent with Grant Condition N, unless otherwise protected by law or agreement as proprietary information, the State and subgrantees will make professional development resources developed under this project publicly and freely available.

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 the amendment.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Florida's Race to the Top Program Officer, Patrick Carr, at 202-834-2905 or patrick.carr@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education
Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Operations
Holly Edenfield, Race to the Top Program Coordinator