



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 17, 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. Between August 20, and September 13, 2013, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to support amendment requests 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 the following amendments:

- Integrate Florida's Differentiated Accountability school improvement program in Florida's approved Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility request with the "(E) Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools" outcome goals. In the ESEA flexibility request, the Differentiated Accountability school improvement program is determined by Florida School Grades, not Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) designation. Amend outcomes as follows:
 - By 2011, all persistently lowest-achieving schools will receive direct support from the Regional Teams. By 2014 At the end of the 2013-14 school year, these schools will have achieved a school grade of at least a

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"B," ~~make at least 80% AYP criteria school-wide, and increased their a~~
 graduation rate of at least to 80%.

- ~~By During 2012-13~~ 2014, each ~~Intervene~~ PLA/SIG Cohort One school will ~~extend the school year by~~ provide 300 hours of extended learning time.
- In subcriterion D the Department erroneously reported timeline shifts in a June 10, 2013 amendment approval letter. Amend outcomes as follows:
 - ~~By the beginning of SY 2012-2013~~ *By the beginning of* During SY 2013-2014, participating LEAs will have instituted policies to make decisions about professional development offerings based on evaluation data.
 - ~~By the beginning of SY 2012-2013~~ *By the beginning of* During SY 2013-2014, participating LEAs will implement ~~state~~ standards for instructional coaches *based on the state's published standards.*

It is our understanding that these amendments will not 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 amendment(s).

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, Interim Commissioner of Education
 Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Operations
 Holly Edenfield, Race to the Top Program Coordinator