



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 6, 2014

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 September 12, 2013, and February 5, 2014, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) 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. 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 amendments, including an extension to the time period and budgets for implementation of three projects, as described below.

- In Project B.3.10: "CTE STEM Expansion in Rural LEAs," shift up to \$2,000,000 from unallocated to Budget #3 Year 4 and Year 5 contractual. FDOE will award start-up funds up to \$100,000 to 20 eligible local educational agencies (LEA) to broaden the creation or conversion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs aligned to industry certifications. Eligible LEAs are those that receive less than \$150,000 in Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins). LEAs will use the funds for creating new CTE STEM program(s); expanding existing CTE STEM program(s); or switching existing CTE programs to CTE

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STEM programs. According to the State, eligible LEAs will have until June 30, 2015 to expend all funds. After these initial start-up funds, the work will be sustained through each LEA's Perkins and Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) funds.

- In Project B. 3. 11: "CTE Hard-to-Measure Test Items" shift up to \$4,574,000 from unallocated to Budget #3 Year 4 and Year 5 contractual to disperse to LEAs to support the development of hard-to-measure CTE assessment items aligned to the Next Generation Occupational State Standards (NGOSS) and the Florida Standards CTE courses. Regional CTE specialists will continue to work with LEAs to monitor progress and quality of assessment items. According to the State, LEAs will have until June 30, 2015 to expend all funds and submit final reports to FDOE. To sustain this work, all completed items will be submitted to the FDOE's Interim Assessment Item Bank and Test Platform.
- In Project E.20.1: "Partnership with Teach For America (TFA)," the State will extend its partnership to provide 150 teachers in Orange County by August 31, 2015. TFA will recruit, train, and place 50 teachers by August 2014 and an additional 100 teachers by August 2015. To support this work, \$1.5 million will shift from unallocated to Budget #20. \$500,000 is needed in SY 2013-2014 and \$1,000,000 is needed in SY 2014-2015 for recruitment, training, and placement of new teachers. The LEA will continue to use local and philanthropic funds to sustain this work beyond the grant period.

It is our understanding that these amendments 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 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, 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: Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education
 Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Operations
 Holly Edenfield, Race to the Top Program Coordinator