



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 28, 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 November 7, 2013 and May 27, 2014, the State submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). 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 amendment, including extension to the time period for implementation, with conditions described below:

- In Project B.2.9, Budget 2: "LEA Project 4 to Bolster Technology for Improved Instruction and Assessment," Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will support local educational agency (LEA) Project 4 by running a request for applications (RFA) process to distribute at least \$75,000 per participating LEA in support of the LEA's digital learning plan. Eligible participating LEAs will be required to submit a three-year digital learning plan to FDOE by October 1, 2014 for implementation during school year (SY) 2014-2015. FDOE education technology staff will review and approve plans based on data-driven decisions and justifications provided by the LEA. Funds will be awarded to each LEA to be used in alignment with its approved plan. LEAs will have through June

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.

30, 2015 to expend funds. FDOE reports that these funds are meant to support, not fully fund, LEA digital learning plans. Each LEA will report on its plan deliverables through the Technology Resources Inventory (TRI) annually each fall and spring. The State will also retain a portion of the funds to enhance several State digital learning tools: the TRI, the Student Tool for Technology, and the Inventory of Teacher Technology Skills.

- o Budget Implications: Add \$5,964,368 from unallocated funds to Year 4 contractual (\$185,000) and Year 5 contractual (\$5,779,368): \$4,875,000 for the LEA RFA and \$1,089,368 for State-level enhancements.

Conditions: As a condition of approval for this project FDOE must to submit to the Department:

1. The final RFA by August 1, 2014;
2. The State Digital Learning Plan by October 1, 2014; and
3. By February 1, 2015, a report of how LEAs plan to spend the \$75,000 against their digital learning plans.

As described in a July 17, 2013 amendment approval letter, the Department indicated that it generally approves the State's process to review LEA sub-grant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after September 23, 2014. Prior to June 30, 2014, the Department expects the State to submit a record of each participating LEA project approved by the State for a no-cost extension and the total funding approved for LEAs' Year 5 Scopes of Work.

As noted in the Notice Inviting Application (NIA) and the Notice of Final Priorities (NFP) under the Statewide Summative Assessments program requirement, no funds awarded under the Race to the Top competition may be used to pay for costs related to statewide summative assessments required under the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA).

It is our understanding that these amendments and no-cost extensions 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 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 amendments. 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