



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 24, 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott
Office of Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

I am writing in response to Florida's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. On July 11, 2011, the State submitted an amendment request 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. 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.

I am pleased to approve the following amendment to the "Expand Recruitment of Promising Teachers through External Partnerships" project in section E (2)(ii) of the application and budget narrative. In this project, the State originally proposed to contract directly with a partner organization to recruit and train promising teachers for the Miami-Dade and Duval Counties local education agencies (LEAs). The funds to support this program will now be awarded via grants to the two LEAs to select a partner organization(s). Issuing grants directly to these districts will help ensure the success of the program as the decisions related to the partner agency will be made by the affected local school boards. These LEAs will work with the partner organization(s) to implement the plan as outlined in the State's application. There will be no impact to the timelines or services.

<http://www.ed.gov>

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendment.

I am confident that Florida 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 Florida's Race to the Top Program Officer, Lauren Scott, at 202-205-0940 or Lauren.Scott@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Gerard Robinson, Commissioner of Education
Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations
Holly Edenfield, Race to the Top Coordinator