



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JAN 22 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott
Office of the Governor
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 October 2 and December 16, 2014, the State submitted documentation to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to support an amendment request to its approved Race to the Top plan. ED 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 October 2011, ED 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, ED 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, as described below.

- Shift \$74,275,899 within the same budget cost categories to implement 21 projects approved between July 17, 2013 and September 12, 2014 for a Year 5 no-cost extension. The State is shifting funds across years primarily due to Year 4 project delays that resulted in lower than expected spending. In addition, the timing of payments and expected payments to contractors and the need to better align the budget with no-cost extension plans also contributed to the shift in funds from Year 4 to Year 5.
- Shift \$2,045,615 as described below across budget cost categories due to unanticipated challenges in project implementation.
 - Shift \$586,189 available due to staffing vacancies from "Project 1: Administrative" to expand funding available in "Project 2: Curricular Tools to Implement the Florida Standards" for equipment (*e.g.*, servers) and travel and supplies to provide continuing professional development and materials to support implementation of the Florida Standards.
 - Within "Project 3: Assessments," shift \$921,013 available due to contracts coming in under budget to purchase a VMware Enterprise Licensing Agreement, network services, and to fund travel to support formative assessments and lesson study implementation.
 - Within "Project 10: Race to the Top Data and Technology Initiatives," shift \$243,489 available because Project 10 equipment purchases were unnecessary in Year 4 to purchase supplies and expand project contractual support.

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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.

- Within “Project 13: Assisting LEAs in Using Evaluation Results and Aligning Human Capital Systems,” shift \$294,924 available due to contracts coming in under budget to fund travel related to supporting local educational agencies (LEAs) with use of revised evaluation system data to make human capital decisions and to purchase Summer Institute supplies.
- Due to contracts coming in under budget in Year 4, Florida has an unallocated amount of \$8,184,070. Florida will submit an amendment request to ED by January 31, 2015 to propose how to best use the remaining unallocated funds.

As described in a July 17, 2013, amendment approval letter, ED indicated that it generally approves Florida’s process to review LEA subgrant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after September 23, 2014. On June 30, 2014, Florida submitted 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.

It is ED’s understanding that this amendment 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 expect 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. This letter will be posted on ED’s website as a record of the amendments.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please Patrick Carr at (202) 708-8196 or patrick.carr@ed.gov. Thank you for your continued commitment to enhancing education for all of Florida’s students.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covers the handwritten signature of Deborah S. Delisle.

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

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