



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

DEC 12 2014

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Office of the Governor
State of Georgia
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

I am writing in response to Georgia's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between November 6 and November 13, 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 March 2013, ED 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. To determine whether approval could be granted, ED 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 an extension to the time period for implementation of one project, as described below.

- Shift \$731,950 to Year 5 funding for Involved LEAs in Project 29: Project Management and Evaluation to allow two local educational agencies (LEAs) to utilize the results of the resource reallocation review.¹ Under the resource reallocation project, Georgia contracted with a vendor to conduct a thorough review of existing resource allocations in five LEAs. Through June 30, 2015, two LEAs will pilot compensation systems designed to increase the number of highly effective teachers for high-poverty students based on the results of the resource reallocation review. The funds are available from cost savings in Year 3 personnel, contracts and supplies in Project 29 and Project 13: Value-added Growth Model.

As described in a September 17, 2013, amendment approval letter, ED indicated that it generally approves Georgia's process to review LEA subgrant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after September 23, 2014. On September 1, 2014, Georgia 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.

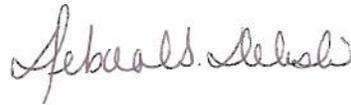
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<http://www.ed.gov/>

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 ED's understanding that this no-cost extension 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. The State must request and receive approval to move forward with no-cost extensions for any additional projects. This letter will be posted on ED's website as a record of the amendment.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Siry of my staff at (202) 260-0926 or melissa.siry@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

cc: John D. Barge, State Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Susan Andrews, Deputy Superintendent for Race to the Top Implementation

¹ In its original budget, activities associated with the resource reallocation review were located in Project 26: Turnaround Services. The State will now support the work of the two involved LEAs under Project 29: Project Management and Evaluation.