



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

April 30, 2012

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

Dear Governor Deal:

I am writing in response to Georgia's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. On April 2, 2012, the State submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such changes do not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On October 4, 2011, the Department 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, 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 approve the following amendment:

- For the project area of Great Teacher and Leaders, in project 16 related to evaluation training and feedback: 1) Add two additional field staff, for a total of 20, to provide training and support to non-Race to the Top districts, priority schools, and School Improvement Grant schools that are piloting the teacher evaluation system in SY 2012-13; 2) Add a program manager to oversee the implementation of the Teacher and Leader Keys Evaluation System and the 20 field staff starting in July 2012; and 3) Add a data specialist position to assist in the review of Teacher and Leader Keys Evaluation System data. All three positions will be supported by reallocating \$972,334 in contractual funds from project 13 related to the Value Added/Growth Model to the personnel and fringe cost categories in project 16. The State has

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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.

reduced funding for the contract to develop the student growth percentile model based on project need. The Georgia Department of Education will be building the student growth percentile model within the State's Longitudinal Data System, which reduces the overall cost and will allow Georgia to sustain the model after the Race to the Top grant.

It is our understanding that the amendment will not 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.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Georgia's Race to the Top Program Officer, Melissa Siry, at 202-260-0926 or Melissa.Siry@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Cc: Superintendent John Barge
Teresa MacCartney
Erin Hames