



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Quinn
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing in response to Illinois's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between August 10, 2012 and January 17, 2013, the State submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and additional clarification as requested. 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. The Department provided grantees with a copy of the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document. 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 section (D)(3) in the "Redesign Teacher Preparation Programs" project, shift the types of teacher preparation programs and the curriculum content areas targeted for redesign.
 - In the original application, the State proposed to provide incentives for elementary/middle school teacher preparation programs to redesign their curriculum to align with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Illinois State Learning Environment (ISLE) instructional improvement system, and establish partnerships with participating LEAs to support placement of teachers in high-poverty high-minority schools. The State recently began restructuring licensure requirements for middle school teachers, and will use this change to incorporate the CCSS and ISLE alignment into the teacher preparation program curriculum. Thus, the

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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.

State will now use the “Redesign Teacher Preparation Programs” project funds to focus on redesigning the curriculum of high school teacher preparation programs and State funds to support the redesign of the curriculum for elementary and middle school teacher preparation programs.

- The original plan included redesign of the elementary/middle school teacher preparation programs’ curriculum in four content areas: English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science and social studies. The State will now focus only on ELA and mathematics curriculum of the high school teacher preparation programs, as the CCSS is already available for these subjects.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your State’s performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope of work. Please note that 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 Illinois’s Race to the Top Program Officer, Rebecca Zazove, at 202-260-1425 or Rebecca.Zazove@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Christopher Koch
David Osta
Christi Chadwick