



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

April 22, 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 December 7, 2012 and March 27, 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 (B)(3) in the "Local Assessment Support (LAS)" project, change the State's approach to support the identification and development of Type II and Type III assessments.
  - In the original application, the State proposed to contract with a vendor to oversee and manage a two pronged approach to the LAS project: Prong 1 to conduct a statewide procurement for Type I assessments for LEAs to implement as part of their educator evaluation system, and Prong 2 to support the identification and development of Type II and Type III assessments. The State will now leverage its PEAC support work that provides options and guidance on LEA selection and use of Type I assessments to complete the work of Prong 1, and focus all LAS funds on a contract with a vendor to oversee and manage the work of Prong 2.

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The State will adjust the request for vendor proposals to expand the number of content-area workgroups tasked with creating and disseminating Type II and Type III assessments, allowing the State to support the development of assessments for additional non-tested grades and 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](mailto:Rebecca.Zazove@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Christopher Koch  
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Christi Chadwick