July 31, 2013

The Honorable Steven Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

I am writing in response to Kentucky's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between November 2012 and July 2013, the State submitted an amendment request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). 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. 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 amendments:
- Adding 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 NAEP Reading and Math targets for subgroups as these were not included in Kentucky's application (Appendix A);
- Revising 2014-2015 NAEP Reading and Math targets for "All Students" Grades 4 and 8 based on NAEP trend data. A close review and analysis of NAEP State average scores over the past several administrations and newly established subgroup targets, supported the State's rationale that NAEP targets set in the application for "All Students" needed to be revised and aligned to other State targets and goals (Appendix B); and
- Adding baseline data and SYs 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 for State assessment student achievement targets and gap targets for subgroups as these were not included in Kentucky's application (Appendix C).

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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.

The Department also acknowledges the alternative ACT benchmark scores [English – 18; Math – 19; and Reading – 20] the State will use to determine "…the number of students that meet ACT college benchmarks" for college readiness.

It is our understanding that these changes to performance measures and goals are consistent with Kentucky's approved request for ESEA flexibility and represent ambitious and achievable targets that will not change the scope and objectives of the 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 Kentucky's Race to the Top Program Officer, Karen Dorsey, at (202) 453-6695 or Karen.dorsey@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

Attachments: Appendix A – 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 NAEP Targets for Subgroups
Appendix B – Revised 2014-2015 NAEP Targets for "All Students"
Appendix C – State Assessment Student Achievement Targets and
Achievement Gap Targets – Overall and by Subgroups

cc: Commissioner Terry Holliday
David Cook

Appendix A – 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 NAEP Targets for Subgroups

Grade 4 - Reading	Target 2012-2013	Target 2014-2015
White (Non-Hispanic)	38	39
Black	24	28
Hispanic	36	37
Asian/Pacific Islander	68	69
American Indian/Alaska Native	*	*
Two or More Races	45	46
English Language Learner	*	*
National School Lunch Program Eligible	27	30
Students with Disabilities	24	28

Grade 8 - Reading	Target 2012-2013	Target 2014-2015
White (Non-Hispanic)	40	41
Black	20	26
Hispanic	32	34
Asian/Pacific Islander	*	*
American Indian/Alaska Native	*	*
Two or More Races	*	*
English Language Learner	*	*
National School Lunch Program Eligible	29	32
Students with Disabilities	20	26

Grade 4 - Math	Target 2012-2013	Target 2014-2015
White (Non-Hispanic)	45	49
Black	25	32
Hispanic	35	39
Asian/Pacific Islander	70	74
American Indian/Alaska Native	*	*
Two or More Races	38	41
English Language Learner	20	29
National School Lunch Program Eligible	32	37
Students with Disabilities	28	34

Grade 8 -Math	Target 2012-2013	Target 2014-2015
White (Non-Hispanic)	35	37
Black	16	19
Hispanic	23	27
Asian/Pacific Islander	*	*
American Indian/Alaska Native	*	*
Two or More Races	*	*
English Language Learner	11	19
National School Lunch Program Eligible	23	27
Students with Disabilities	17	23

*Reporting standards not met.

Appendix B – Revised 2014-2015 NAEP Targets for "All Students"

Percent at or Above Proficient

Reading	Target 2014-2015
All Students – Grade 4	Prior: 43
	Revised: 37
All Students – Grade 8	Prior: 42
	Revised: 38

Math	Target 2014-2015
All Students – Grade 4	Prior: 46
	Revised: 47
All Students – Grade 8	Prior: 38
	Revised: 35

Appendix C – State Assessment Student Achievement Targets and Achievement Gap Targets – Overall and by Subgroup (% Proficiency/Distinguished)

Reading – Elementary Grades K-5	Baseline 2011-2012	Target 2012-2013	Target 2013-2014	Target 2014-2015
All Elementary	48.0	53.2	58.4	63.6
White (Non-Hispanic)	51.3	56.2	61.0	65.9
Gap – All/White	-3.3	-3.0	-2.6	-2.3
Black	27.5	34.8	42.0	49.3
Gap – All/Black	20.5	18.4	16.4	14.3
Hispanic	37.1	43.4	49.7	56.0
Gap – All/Hispanic	10.9	9.8	8.7	7.6
Asian	63.7	67.3	71.0	74.6
Gap – All/Asian	-15.7	-14.1	-12.6	-11.0
English Language Learners (ELL)	23.4	31.1	38.7	46.4
Gap – All/ELL	24.6	22.1	19.7	17.2
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	37.0	43.3	49.6	55.9
Gap – All/NSLP	11.0	9.9	8.8	7.7
Students with Disabilities	26.8	34.1	41.4	48.8
Gap – All/Students with Disabilities	21.2	19.1	17.0	14.8

Math – Elementary Grades K-5	Baseline 2011-2012	Target 2012-2013	Target 2013-2014	Target 2014-2015
All Elementary	40.4	46.4	52.3	58.3
White (Non-Hispanic)	43.1	48.8	54.5	60.2
Gap – All/White	-2.7	-2.4	-2.2	-1.9
Black	22.4	30.2	37.9	45.7
Gap – All/Black	18.0	16.2	14.4	12.6
Hispanic	30.5	37.5	44.4	51.4
Gap – All/Hispanic	9.9	8.9	7.9	6.9
Asian	67.4	70.7	73.9	77.2
Gap – All/Asian	-27.0	-24.3	-21.6	-19.9
English Language Learners (ELL)	22.7	30.4	38.2	45.9
Gap – All/ELL	17.7	16.0	14.1	12.4
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	29.8	36.8	43.8	50.9
Gap – All/NSLP	10.6	9.6	8.5	7.4
Students with Disabilities	19.9	27.9	35.9	43.9
Gap – All/Students with Disabilities	20.5	18.5	16.4	14.4

Reading Middle School Grades 6-8	Baseline 2011-2012	Target 2012-2013	Target 2013-2014	Target 2014-2015
All Middle School	46.8	52.1	57.4	62.8
White (Non-Hispanic)	50.0	55.0	60.0	65.0
Gap – All/White	-3.2	-2.9	-2.6	-2.2
Black	25.9	33.3	40.7	48.1
Gap – All/Black	20.9	18.8	16.7	14.7
Hispanic	36.5	42.9	49.2	55.6
Gap – All/Hispanic	10.3	9.2	8.2	7.2
Asian	59.4	63.5	67.5	71.6
Gap – All/Asian	-12.6	-11.4	-10.1	-8.8
English Language Learners (ELL)	9.5	18.6	27.6	36.7
Gap – All/ELL	37.3	33.5	29.8	26.1
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	34.8	41.3	47.8	54.4
Gap – All/NSLP	12.0	10.8	9.6	8.4
Students with Disabilities	16.9	25.2	33.5	41.8
Gap – All/Students with Disabilities	29.9	26.9	23.9	21.0

Math – Middle School Grades 6-8	Baseline 2011-2012	Target 2012-2013	Target 2013-2014	Target 2014-2015
All Middle School	40.6	46.5	52.5	58.4
White (Non-Hispanic)	43.5	49.2	54.8	60.5
Gap – All/White	-2.9	-2.7	-2.3	-1.9
Black	20.3	28.3	36.2	44.2
Gap – All/Black	20.3	18.2	16.3	14.2
Hispanic	31.4	38.3	45.1	52.0
Gap – All/Hispanic	9.2	8.2	7.4	6.4
Asian	66.7	70.0	73.4	76.7
Gap – All/Asian	-26.1	-23.5	-20.9	18.3
English Language Learners (ELL)	15.8	24.2	32.6	41.1
Gap – All/ELL	24.8	22.3	19.9	17.3
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	28.6	35.7	42.9	50.0
Gap – All/NSLP	12.0	10.8	9.6	8.4
Students with Disabilities	15.1	23.6	32.1	40.6
Gap – All/Students with Disabilities	25.5	22.9	20.4	17.8

Reading – High School Grades 9-12	Baseline 2011-2012	Target 2012-2013	Target 2013-2014	Target 2014-2015
All High School	52.2	57.0	61.8	66.5
White (Non-Hispanic)	55.3	59.8	64.2	68.7
Gap – All/White	-3.1	-2.8	-2.4	-2.2
Black	31.8	38.6	45.4	52.3
Gap – All/Black	20.4	18.4	16.4	13.2
Hispanic	41.4	47.3	53.1	59.0
Gap – All/Hispanic	10.8	9.7	8.7	7.5
Asian	61.9	65.7	69.5	73.3
Gap – All/Asian	-9.7	-8.7	-7.7	-6.8
English Language Learners (ELL)	6.5	15.9	25.2	34.6
Gap – All/ELL	45.7	41.1	36.6	31.9
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	38.6	44.7	50.9	57.0
Gap – All/NSLP	13.6	12.3	10.9	9.5
Students with Disabilities	11.3	20.2	29.0	37.9
Gap – All/Students with Disabilities	40.9	36.8	32.8	28.6

Math – High School Grades 9-12	Baseline 2011-2012	Target 2012-2013	Target 2013-2014	Target 2014-2015
All	40.0	46.0	52.0	58.0
White (Non-Hispanic)	42.1	47.9	53.7	59.5
Gap – All/White	-2.1	-1.9	-1.7	-1.5
Black	24.4	32.0	39.5	47.1
Gap – All/Black	15.6	14.0	12.5	10.9
Hispanic	35.1	41.6	48.1	54.6
Gap – All/Hispanic	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.4
Asian	66.3	69.7	73.0	76.4
Gap – All/Asian	-26.3	-23.7	-21.0	-18.4
English Language Learners (ELL)	23.0	30.7	38.4	46.1
Gap – All/ELL	17.0	15.3	13.6	11.9
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	27.9	35.1	42.3	49.5
Gap – All/NSLP	12.1	10.9	9.7	8.5
Students with Disabilities	11.1	20.0	28.9	37.8
Gap – All/Students with Disabilities	28.9	26.0	23.1	20.2