



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 23, 2013

The Honorable Steve 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 September 30, 2013 and December 17, 2013 the State submitted amendment requests and clarifying documentation 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 am pleased to approve the following amendments:

- 1) Add targets for the State assessment in science, social studies, and writing for school year (SY) 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. The Kentucky Race to the Top Phase 3 application did not include achievement gap targets in reading, math, science, social studies and writing, but stated that the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) would submit student assessment gap targets once the new State assessment was administered in spring 2012. The State submitted reading and math gap targets to the Department in February 2013 but targets for science, social studies, and writing were not included. (See Appendix A)

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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.

- 2) Replace the SY 2013 -2014 and SY 2014-2015 graduation targets, which were based on the four-year adjusted cohort measure, with targets based on the cohort model. (See Appendix B)

Sincerely,

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

Appendix A - Science, Social Studies, and Writing Achievement Gap Targets
Appendix B - Cohort Graduation Rate Gap Targets

cc: State Superintendent Terry Holiday
David Cook, Kentucky Race to the Top Lead

Appendix A – Science, Social Studies, and Writing Achievement Targets and Gaps

SCIENCE - ELEMENTARY Grades K-5 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	75.0	78.2
White (Non-Hispanic)	78.4	81.1
Gap - ALL/White	-3.4	-2.9
Black	55.0	60.6
Gap - ALL/Black	20.0	17.6
Hispanic	65.4	69.7
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	9.6	8.5
Asian	82.5	84.7
Gap - ALL/Asian	-7.5	-6.5
ELL	50.4	56.6
Gap - ALL/ELL	24.6	21.6
National School Lunch Program	67.6	71.7
Gap - ALL/NSLP	7.4	6.5
Students with Disabilities	53.6	59.4
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	21.4	18.8

SOCIAL STUDIES - ELEMENTARY Grades K-5 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	67.8	71.9
White (Non-Hispanic)	70.6	74.2
Gap - ALL/White	-2.8	-2.3
Black	50.0	56.3
Gap - ALL/Black	17.8	15.6
Hispanic	60.6	65.5
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	7.2	6.4
Asian	77.8	80.6
Gap - ALL/Asian	-10.0	-8.7
ELL	40.3	47.8
Gap - ALL/ELL	27.5	24.1
National School Lunch Program	58.9	64.0
Gap - ALL/NSLP	8.9	7.9
Students with Disabilities	43.8	50.8
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	25.0	21.1

WRITING - ELEMENTARY Grades K-5 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	45.4	52.2
White (Non-Hispanic)	46.8	53.5
Gap - ALL/White	-1.4	-1.3
Black	35.5	43.6
Gap - ALL/Black	9.9	8.6
Hispanic	40.0	47.5
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	5.4	4.7
Asian	58.6	63.8
Gap - ALL/Asian	-12.8	-11.6
ELL	30.6	39.2
Gap - ALL/ELL	14.8	13.0
National School Lunch Program	38.4	46.1
Gap - ALL/NSLP	7.0	6.1
Students with Disabilities	31.8	40.3
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	13.6	11.9

SCIENCE - MIDDLE Grades 6-8 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	69.4	73.3
White (Non-Hispanic)	72.5	75.9
Gap - ALL/White	-3.1	-2.6
Black	48.2	54.7
Gap - ALL/Black	21.2	18.6
Hispanic	61.2	66.1
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	8.2	7.2
Asian	78.2	81.0
Gap - ALL/Asian	-8.8	-7.7
ELL	38.9	46.5
Gap - ALL/ELL	30.5	26.8
National School Lunch Program	60.2	65.2
Gap - ALL/NSLP	9.2	8.1
Students with Disabilities	41.7	49.0
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	27.7	24.3

SOCIAL STUDIES - MIDDLE Grades 6-8 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	66.9	71.0
White (Non-Hispanic)	69.7	73.5
Gap - ALL/White	-2.8	-2.5
Black	47.4	54.0
Gap - ALL/Black	19.5	17.0
Hispanic	60.4	65.4
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	6.5	6.4
Asian	77.2	80.1
Gap - ALL/Asian	-10.3	-9.1
ELL	35.0	43.1
Gap - ALL/ELL	31.9	27.9
National School Lunch Program	56.8	62.2
Gap - ALL/NSLP	10.9	8.8
Students with Disabilities	37.8	45.6
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	29.1	25.4

WRITING - MIDDLE Grades 6-8 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	53.1	59.0
White (Non-Hispanic)	55.0	60.6
Gap - ALL/White	-1.9	-1.6
Black	40.0	47.5
Gap - ALL/Black	13.1	11.5
Hispanic	47.4	54.0
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	5.7	5.0
Asian	67.6	71.7
Gap - ALL/Asian	-15.5	-15.3
ELL	31.5	40.1
Gap - ALL/ELL	21.6	18.9
National School Lunch Program	44.7	51.6
Gap - ALL/NSLP	8.4	7.4
Students with Disabilities	29.2	38.1
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	22.9	20.9

SCIENCE - HIGH Grades 9-12 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	44.2	51.2
White (Non-Hispanic)	46.1	52.8
Gap - ALL/White	-1.9	-1.6
Black	30.7	39.4
Gap - ALL/Black	13.5	11.8
Hispanic	39.2	46.8
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	5.0	4.4
Asian	61.3	66.1
Gap - ALL/Asian	-18.1	-14.9
ELL	25.6	34.9
Gap - ALL/ELL	18.6	16.3
National School Lunch Program	34.5	42.7
Gap - ALL/NSLP	9.7	8.5
Students with Disabilities	26.2	35.4
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	18.0	15.8

SOCIAL STUDIES - HIGH Grades 9-12 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	51.6	57.7
White (Non-Hispanic)	53.8	59.5
Gap - ALL/White	-2.2	-1.8
Black	36.2	44.2
Gap - ALL/Black	15.4	13.5
Hispanic	45.7	52.5
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	5.9	5.2
Asian	62.5	67.2
Gap - ALL/Asian	-10.9	-9.5
ELL	24.2	33.6
Gap - ALL/ELL	27.4	24.1
National School Lunch Program	40.8	48.2
Gap - ALL/NSLP	10.8	9.5
Students with Disabilities	30.2	39.0
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	21.4	18.7

WRITING - HIGH Grades 9-12 (% Proficient/Distinguished)

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	55.0	60.7
White (Non-Hispanic)	56.7	62.1
Gap - ALL/White	-1.7	-1.4
Black	43.3	50.4
Gap - ALL/Black	11.7	10.3
Hispanic	50.5	56.7
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	4.5	4.0
Asian	67.2	71.3
Gap - ALL/Asian	-12.2	-10.6
ELL	29.5	38.3
Gap - ALL/ELL	25.5	22.4
National School Lunch Program	45.4	52.2
Gap - ALL/NSLP	9.6	8.5
Students with Disabilities	27.2	36.3
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	27.8	24.4

Appendix B – COHORT Graduation Rates

Group	TARGET 2013-2014	TARGET 2014-2015
ALL	87.4	88.7
White (Non-Hispanic)	88.9	90.1
Gap - ALL/White	-1.5	-1.4
Black	80.7	82.8
Gap - ALL/Black	6.7	5.9
Hispanic	78.4	80.8
Gap - ALL/Hispanic	9.0	7.9
Asian	88.9	90.1
Gap - ALL/Asian	-1.5	-1.4
ELL	67.5	71.3
Gap - ALL/ELL	19.9	17.4
National School Lunch Program	86.8	88.2
Gap - ALL/NSLP	0.6	0.5
Students with Disabilities	57.5	62.5
Gap - ALL/Disabilities	29.9	26.2