



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 15, 2013

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

Dear Governor Beshear:

I am writing with regards to the documentation Kentucky submitted on April 8, 2013 in response to the U.S. Department of Education's July 9, 2012 conditional approval of Kentucky's request to amend sub-criterion (D)(3) – Improving teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance – of its Race to the Top plan. Specifically, the amendment allowed for a one year delay to the timeline for implementing the Educator Development Suite (EDS) module of the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS). The State requested the delay to, in part, complete negotiations with vendors as well as allow for the EDS module to be implemented simultaneously with the new evaluation system – Professional Growth and Evaluation System (PGES).

The Department placed three conditions on the amendment. First, Kentucky was to receive approval to amend its ESEA flexibility request regarding its timeline and plans for piloting its new teacher and leader evaluation system, PGES, and including the results in its school accountability system. Second, Kentucky was to submit monthly updates to the Department on contract negotiations. Finally, the State was to enter into a contract with a vendor regarding the integration of the evaluation system with EDS module by February 1, 2013.

In September 2012, the Department approved Kentucky's ESEA flexibility amendment request regarding its timeline and plans for piloting PGES and including the results in its school accountability system. In its April 8th letter to the Department and during subsequent telephone discussions, the State reported the decision in August 2012 to incorporate the 2009 version of the Danielson framework into the CIITS EDS module

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instead of the 2011 version. Further, the State explained that the decision did not require a contract with the CIITS vendor as the 2009 version was already loaded into the CIITS EDS module.

Based on the documentation that Kentucky submitted as well as additional clarification received during the May monthly call, the Department finds that the conditions placed on the amendment were met and to date all related activities are being implemented as amended.

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 Karen.dorsey@ed.gov or at 202-453-6695.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Commissioner Terry Holiday
David Cook