



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 9, 2012

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 May 11, 2012, and June 28, 2012, 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 posted on its website a revised "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document 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 amendment with the following conditions:

For Project 1 - Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS):

Shift the timeline for implementing the Educator Development Suite (EDS) component of the CIITS by approximately a year, and reduce the number of LEAs participating in the 2012-2013 school year field test of the EDS from 55 to 54.

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

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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.*

Original timeline	Proposed Timeline
55 district field test (700 teachers) – February 2012	54 district field test (700 teachers) – 2012-2013 school year
Statewide field test – 2012-2013 school year	Statewide rollout – 2013-2014 school year
Statewide implementation – 2013-2014 school year (in conjunction with the use of Kentucky’s evaluation system for accountability purposes)	Statewide implementation – 2014-2015 school year (in conjunction with the use of Kentucky’s evaluation system for accountability purposes)

Kentucky’s EDS is designed to support the implementation of its “professional growth and evaluation system” (evaluation system). The State is requesting such a delay to enable it to complete negotiations with vendors, as well as to provide an additional year for gathering research to support Kentucky’s new and comprehensive approach to educator effectiveness. Approval of a one year delay in implementing the EDS will allow for it to be implemented simultaneously with the evaluation system. Note: Under ESEA Flexibility, the State will also request approval to delay by one year the implementation of its evaluation system.

This timeline shift will affect Kentucky’s performance measures by moving targets one year later, as indicated in the chart below (new measures are indicated in parentheses). Kentucky proposes to change the performance measures to reflect the reduced scope of the field test (700 teachers) and, because of the implementation delay, the State will not provide data for three measures as originally planned in the 2012-2013 school year since the Commonwealth will not be reporting the results of the evaluations for those 700 teachers.

(D)(5) Performance Measures	Actual Data: Baseline (Current school year or most recent)	End of SY 2012-2013	End of SY 2013-2014	End of SY 2014-2015
Percentage of teachers in participating LEAs who were evaluated as exemplary under the common statewide evaluation system.	N/A	5% (N/A)	10% (5%)	20% (10%)
Percentage of teachers in participating LEAs who were evaluated as accomplished or developing under the common statewide evaluation system.	N/A	75% (N/A)	75% (75%)	70% (75%)
Percentage of teachers in participating LEAs who were evaluated as ineffective under the common statewide evaluation system.	N/A	20% (N/A)	15% (20%)	10% (15%)

The approval for this amendment is conditioned on the following:

1. Kentucky receives approval to amend its ESEA flexibility request regarding its timelines and plans for piloting its evaluation system and including the results in its school accountability system, to reflect the timeline shift as described above.
2. Kentucky must submit monthly updates to the Department on the progress it is making on its contract negotiations for its evaluation system and the EDS.
3. Kentucky successfully enters into a contract with its vendor regarding the integration of the evaluation system with the EDS by February 1, 2013.

I approve the following amendment:

For Project 1 - Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS):

Shift \$115,000 of funding from year 1 to year 4 for a contracted IT position. This individual will work closely with the KDE CIITS product sponsor, KDE program areas, KDE CIITS executive sponsors and with CIITS customers in school districts. This position was originally funded for years 1-3 of the grant. However, the actual hiring will not occur until at least July 1, 2012, so KDE proposes to shift the first year of funding for this position into year 4.

KDE believes that shifting these funds to year 4 will allow this individual to continue to support the CIITS implementation through the full implementation of the Educator Development Suite (EDS).

It is our understanding that the amendments will not 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.

I am confident that Kentucky will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. 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, Shelley Kahn, at (202)453-5999 or [shelley.kahn@ed.gov](mailto:shelley.kahn@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Commissioner Terry Holliday  
David Cook