



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Steve Beshear
Office of the Governor
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

August 31, 2015

Dear Governor Beshear:

I am writing in response to Kentucky's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. On August 17, 2015, the State submitted documentation to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to support an amendment request to its approved Race to the Top plan. ED has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided the revisions do not change the overall scope and objectives of the approved proposal. In June 2014, ED issued *Amendment Requests with No-cost Extension Guidance and Principles*, indicating the process by which amendments containing requests to provide additional time for a grantee to accomplish the reform goals and deliverables it committed to in its Race to the Top application and approved Scope of Work would be reviewed. To determine whether approval could be granted, ED has applied the conditions and elements specific to no-cost extensions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program *Principles* included in the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document issued to Governors of grantee States in October 2011.

I approve the following amendment, including an extension of the performance period, as described below.

- Shift \$750,000 in available funds from Year 4 to Year 5 contractual to extend the AdvanceKentucky STEM initiative through September 30, 2016. AdvanceKentucky STEM initiative is a Statewide math-science initiative dedicated to helping Kentucky's students reach new heights in rigorous academic achievement. Funds will be used to continue the AdvanceKentucky initiative, which will increase access to challenging coursework and STEM subject areas in fifteen schools. Year 4 funds are available due to expenditures being lower than budgeted.

ED understands that this no-cost extension will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that by law all Race to the Top funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2017. ED expects grantees with no-cost extensions to liquidate all funds by April 3, 2017. The State must request and receive approval to move forward with no-cost extensions for any additional projects. This letter will be posted on ED's website as a record of the amendment.

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

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If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Chuenee Boston or Monika Kincheloe of my staff at: OSS.Kentucky@ed.gov.

Thank you for your commitment to the public education for all children in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

/s/

Monique Chism, Ph.D.
Director
Office of State Support

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