



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

FEB 12 2015

The Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Jindal,

I am writing in response to Louisiana's request to amend its Race to the Top grant project. On November 3, 2014, the State submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (ED). ED 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, ED posted on its website a revised *Grant Amendment Submission Process* document, indicating the process by which an amendment would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, ED has applied the conditions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program *Principles*, included in the "Grant Amendment" document.

I approve the following amendment:

Project (D)(3) Louisiana's Statewide Staffing Initiative

- Reallocate \$350,596 in unexpended funds from Years 2, 3 and 4 in "personnel" (\$265,336) and "fringe" (\$59,462), as well as funds from Year 2 in "travel" (\$15,000), "equipment" (\$5,000), and "supplies" (\$5,798) to Year 4 "other" to support implementation of the Believe and Prepare program. The Believe and Prepare program is designed to strengthen teacher preparation programs and supports the State's goals for this subcriterion.

In its Race to the Top Phase 3 application, Louisiana described its statewide staffing initiative that includes designing a comprehensive human capital approach; providing training to local educational agencies (LEAs) on effective, recruiting, hiring, and placement strategies; and expanding effective teacher and leader preparation programs to increase the supply of effective educators and ensure access to these educators throughout the State.

The State has explained that due to a hiring freeze it was unable to hire a Project Manager and, as a result, assigned existing State staff to provide oversight and to manage implementation of Act 1 during Years 2 and 3; this staff will continue in this capacity in Year 4. The State further indicated that State staff would continue oversight of the program through completion of the Race to the Top grant. Thus, the State will use the unexpended funds allocated for the Project Manager position to fund the Believe and Prepare program.

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.*

It is ED's understanding that this amendment will not substantially change your State's scope and objectives of the work. Please note that this letter will be posted on ED'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 Elizabeth Witt at (202) 260-5585 or [elizabeth.witt@ed.gov](mailto:elizabeth.witt@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah S. Delisle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary

cc: John White, State Superintendent of Schools  
Kunjan Narechania, Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Chief of Staff  
Sheila Guidry, LDOE Race to the Top Lead