



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Office of the Governor
Maryland State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

I am writing in response to Maryland's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. On June 25, 2013, the State submitted amendment requests 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 approve the following amendments:

- For the project area Data Systems to Support Instruction, in the project "Multi-media Training (#10/28):" (1) Shift \$263,718 from Year 3 to Year 4 to support a longitudinal data system coaching program for local educational agency (LEA) data coaches. Initially, Maryland intended to purchase off-the-shelf training modules, but this approach was cost-prohibitive.

Now the State will contract with an expert to design customized modules. The State expects that both the online multi-media tutorials and the training modules for LEA data coaches will be available to LEAs by September 30, 2013. Previously, the State expected to roll out the multi-media tutorials in phases, annually, in conjunction with LDS data dashboards. However, delays

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developing the dashboards as well as the infrastructure needed to roll out dashboards and multi-media tutorials have resulted in all multi-media tutorials being rolled out at once. (2) Adjust the “Indirect Costs” budget category to reflect actual indirect cost rates in each year.

- For the project area Data Systems to Support Instruction, in the project “Develop and Implement Course Registration System (#24/56):” (1) Shift \$151,0008 in “Contractual” from Year 3 to Year 4 to pay for additional personnel resources needed to support and coordinate statewide implementation of the Learning Management System (LMS) from July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013. These resources include a system administrator, support specialist, LEA training liaison, and meta-tagging specialist. (2) Adjust the “Indirect Costs” budget category to reflect actual indirect cost rates in each year.

These amendment approvals are conditioned on the State submitting to the Department by August 31, 2013, its comprehensive training plan for SY 2013-2014, which will include all training and support for local implementation of technology systems as well as other key reforms under Race to the Top. This plan should include clear timelines, training activities, and responsible parties and should describe the mechanisms Maryland will use to assess the quality and success of training provided to LEAs and educators under this plan.

It is our understanding that these amendments will not result in a change in your State’s performance measures and outcomes, not will they 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.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Maryland’s Race to the Top Program Officer, Melissa Siry, at 202-260-0926 or Melissa.Siry@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Dr. Lillian Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools
 Penelope Thornton-Talley, Esq.
 Mary Gable