



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 19, 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 August 1, 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 of Great Teachers and Leaders, in the project "Develop and Implement a Statistical Model to Measure Student Growth" (28/47): (1) Maryland will shift \$913,127 in cost savings to project "Develop and Implement an Educator Evaluation System" (29/48), described below, because it was able to complete the development of its statistical model to measure student growth at a lower cost than originally anticipated; (2) As part of this project, Maryland contracted with a subject matter expert to serve as the lead liaison for the SY 2012-2013 field test and conduct data analyses. Maryland will shift this position to project "Develop and Implement an Educator Evaluation System" (29/48) in Year 4. Therefore, this project is now closed.

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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.

- For the project area of Great Teachers and Leaders, in the project “Develop and Implement an Educator Evaluation System” (29/48): (1) Maryland will offer sub-grants to participating LEAs to support the implementation of the educator evaluation system, rather than procure and implement a centralized teacher and principal calculation system at the State-level. LEAs must apply to use the funds to support: 1) quality controls to support local maintenance and integrity of the evaluation system; 2) professional development; 3) evaluator effectiveness or school-based needs; and 4) system effectiveness or district needs. The State will monitor implementation of the approved LEA plans through ongoing technical assistance and professional development, an independent third party review, and support of the Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center. To support the LEA sub-grants, Maryland will shift \$2,453,982 to Year 4 Supplemental Funding for Participating LEAs from Year 2 Equipment and Contractual. Additionally, Maryland will use \$913,127 in cost savings from the project “Develop and Implement a Statistical Model to Measure Student Growth (28/47), described above, to support the sub-grants. (2) As described above, the subject matter expert originally included in project “Develop and Implement a Statistical Model to Measure Student Growth” (28/47), will be included in Year 4 in this project. The State will shift \$295,436 to Year 4 contractual from Year 2 contractual to support this position.

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,

//s//

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