



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 2, 2014

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

Dear Governor O'Malley:

Dear Governor O'Malley:

I am writing in response to Maryland's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between December 27, 2013 and May 30, 2014 the State submitted amendment requests and no cost extension 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. In March 2013, the Department 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 and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department 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 amendments described in the attached table, including extensions to the time period for implementation of three projects.

As described in an April 9, 2014 amendment approval letter, the Department indicated that it generally approves the State's process to review local education authority (LEA) subgrant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after September 23, 2014.

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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.*

Prior to June 30, 2014, the Department expects the State to submit a record of each participating LEA project approved by the State for a no-cost extension and the total funding approved for the LEAs' Year 5 Scopes of Work.

It is our understanding that these amendments and no-cost extensions will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that we are expecting grantees with no-cost extensions to liquidate all funds by September 1, 2015, given that by law all Race to the Top funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2015. The State must request and receive approval to move forward with no-cost extensions for any additional projects. 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, Julie Glasier, at (202) 205-0940 or [Julie.Glasier@ed.gov](mailto:Julie.Glasier@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

Grant project area affected	Specific project	Description of change
(B)(3)	Curriculum and Formative Assessment Development for ITEEA (5/4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift \$1,961 of unexpended Year 3 project funds and \$45,248 of unexpended funds from other projects to Year 4 contractual and indirect costs to extend the project performance period through June 30, 2015. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will utilize funds to provide LEAs access to technology education curriculum, assessments, and professional development available through the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) during SY 2014-2015.<sup>1</sup> Due to the timing of the ITEEA membership fees, the State must expend funds in Year 4 to extend these services through SY 2014-2015.</li> </ul>
(B)(3)	Curriculum and Formative Assessment Development CTE-SREB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) timeline to complete Career and Technology Education (CTE) Courses III and IV by one year, to August 2014. The State originally planned to develop and pilot these courses during Year 3 to be made available for all LEAs during SY 2013-2014. However, due to initial delays with hiring a curriculum writer, MSDE piloted and revised Courses III and IV SY 2013-2014, which will be made available for LEAs in August 2014. As a result of this timeline delay, the State will shift \$62,819 of unexpended Year 3 contractual funds to Year 4 contractual.</li> </ul>
(B)(3)	World Languages Pipelines (7/5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the Years 2 and 3 project budgets by \$600,081 to align with actual expenditures primarily due to savings in personnel and contractual costs. Of these funds, the State will shift \$110,322 to Year 4 to expand opportunities for World Language Specialists and educators to develop standards-aligned lesson plans and model units through four in-person World Language Academies in summer 2014. The State reports the resources developed through these convenings will be made available for all educators through Maryland's Learning Management System (LMS). MSDE will continue all original activities slated for Year 4 in this project. The remaining \$489,759 of unexpended Years 2 and 3 funds will be redirected to support other areas of the State's plan.</li> </ul>
(C)(2)	LEA Infrastructure Upgrades (11/29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift \$923,384 of unexpended Year 3 supplemental funding for participating LEAs to Year 4 to align with the timing of LEA subgrant reimbursements. The State reports LEAs had to liquidate subgrant funds awarded in Year 3 by September 30, 2013.</li> <li>Based on actual expenditures, MSDE will reduce the project budget by \$526,666 which will be redirected to support other areas in the State's plan.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> During MSDE's Year 3 budget carryover review, the State identified funds not spent during Years 1 through 3. The State allocated these unspent funds to Year 4 as appropriate and then made determinations about the best use of these funds, which in some cases were shifts to other project budgets as described in the table.

Grant project area affected	Specific project	Description of change
(D)(3)	Incentives for ESOL Teachers (38/53)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift \$345,063 of unexpended Year 3 supplemental funding for participating LEAs to Year 4 to continue incentives for eligible teachers that obtain ESOL certification in low-achieving, high-minority, high-poverty schools. MSDE reports that due to lower than anticipated participation in Year 3, funds are needed in Year 4. The Department expects MSDE to still meet or exceed its original goal of awarding incentives to 520 educators within the grant period.</li> </ul>
(D)(5)	Professional Development for Executive Officers (40/15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift \$26,487 unexpended Year 3 project funds and \$220,117 of unexpended funds from other projects to Year 5 to continue to provide executive officers professional development and support on the implementation of teacher and principal evaluations through June 30, 2015. The training will parallel the professional development delivered through Principal Pipeline initiative and provide differentiated support to LEAs as needed.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
(E)(2)	Extend Student Learning and Improve School Culture, Climate, and Student Support (46/57)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shift \$114,057 of unexpended Year 3 funds to Year 4 to reflect actual expenditures. MSDE originally planned to hire a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) specialist and two coaches/trainers in Year 3 to provide individualized and direct services to school-based culture and climate teams in target LEAs. Due to challenges with recruiting qualified personnel, MSDE did not hire this staff until April 2014, but reports the State will still meet the project's original goals and objectives during Year 4 despite the delays.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> In a May 1, 2014 amendment letter, the Department approved the State's request in the "Educator Instructional Improvement Academies" project (41/24) to support the Governor's Principal Pipeline, a year-long professional development program for promising principals, with the goal of increasing LEA capacity and sustaining Maryland's reform agenda.

Grant project area affected	Specific project	Description of change
(E)(2)	STEM Project Lead the Way - Gateway to Technology (51/71)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift \$182,000 of unexpended funds from other projects to Years 4 and 5 to continue and extend the project timeline through June 30, 2015, as described below.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MSDE will allocate \$50,000 to Year 4 Supplemental Funding for Participating LEAs to assist two Project Lead the Way—Gateway to Technology (PLTW – GTT) schools in securing additional classroom computers. The State reports additional computers are necessary to ensure that students can complete required, in-class computer-based assignments.</li> <li>○ Add \$132,000 to Year 5 Supplemental Funding for Participating LEAs to fund four schools in SY 2014-2015 to implement PLTW – GTT subgrants. Funds will allow the additional schools to purchase equipment and supplies to support PLTW—GTT implementation and provide training opportunities to participating teachers. MSDE project staff will continue to provide technical assistance to other schools that participated in the project during Years 1 through 4, as they will be supported through LEA non-Race to the Top funds during SY 2014-2015.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>