



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 29, 2011

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 17, 2011, the State submitted an amendment request 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 January 6, 2011, the Department sent a letter and "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.

As stated in the amendment approval letter dated June 17, 2011, Maryland identified budgetary savings in projects #44/41 and #39/25 and indicated they would submit amendments to redirect the use of those funds at a later date. The following amendments address the use of those funds.

I am pleased to approve the following amendments:

- For the project area of Standards and Assessments, for the Curriculum and Formative Assessment project (#04/03), expand the scope of the project by including additional personnel to participate in the development of science and social studies curricula and frameworks, guide professional development, assist in literacy work, and participate in national standards setting. Funds will be used for personnel, fringe, travel, supplies, and equipment associated with hiring two Science Education Specialists, two Social Studies Education Specialists, and one Literacy Specialist for years 2-4 of the grant. The total budget for this project will increase by \$955,423. These additional resources will advance Maryland's ability to ensure that literacy standards in all content areas are addressed, and to provide curriculum guidance and resources aligned to the new science and social studies standards which are currently under development.

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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 Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools, for the Breakthrough Center project (#44/41), hire an Education Specialist for Leadership Development to provide extensive professional development for school principals and school leadership teams in Baltimore City and Prince George's County Public Schools. Funds will be used for personnel, fringe, travel, supplies, and equipment costs for years 2-4 of the grant. The total project budget will increase by \$284,874. The addition of an Education Specialist for Leadership Development will increase the available support for schools and district leadership to build capacity and design and implement turnaround strategies to sustain improvement efforts in the lowest-achieving schools in Maryland.

I am confident that Maryland will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact your 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: Superintendent Bernard Sadusky
James, Foran