



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 05, 2012

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. Between November 10 and November 22, 2011 the State submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such changes do 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 amendments outlined below:

- For the project area Standards and Assessments, in the project "Curriculum and Formative Assessment Development (#04/03):" (1) Shift \$485,667 in unspent year 1 contractual funds to year 2 to account for the delay in procuring two online STEM courses; and (2) Add the following contractual elements to the project: provide sign language interpreter services for meetings on Common Core State Standards curriculum development in order to facilitate communication with staff at the Maryland School for the Deaf; modify online government course and create Fine Arts curriculum resources to align with the Common Core State Standards for Literacy in order to support the State's transition to the Maryland Common Core State curriculum.
- For the project area Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools, in the project "Primary Talent Development (#52/77):" (1) Based on needs assessments completed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Breakthrough Center, the State will pilot the Primary Talent Development program in five elementary schools that have demonstrated the readiness and capacity for implementing the program, instead of 20 elementary schools as originally planned. Twenty classroom teachers in the five elementary schools will be trained to implement the program, instead of one teacher in each of 20 schools as originally planned. (2) Phase in the four grade levels of the

program (Pre-K through 2nd grade) over two years, instead of adding a new grade level each year. (3) Utilize a direct training model for the 20 teachers who will implement the program, instead of a train-the-trainer model as originally planned; the State reported that MSDE Gifted and Talented Education staff have successfully implemented a Primary Talent Development direct training model, whereas the train-the-trainer model has not proven successful in the past.

All technology requests, including those outlined in the attached table, are subject to the same condition noted in the July 26, 2011 amendment approval letter, which requires the State to provide monthly status updates regarding progress on all technology-related Race to the Top-funded work in the area of data systems.

In addition, I approve the budget shifts in the amendments described in the attached chart. The Department acknowledges the timeline delays and missed milestones related to this part of the State's Scope of Work prior to these budget shifts. It is our understanding that Maryland will still accomplish within the grant period all of the activities and deliverables articulated in its approved application.

It is our understanding that the amendments will not 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. I am confident that Maryland will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. If you have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact your Race to the Top Program Officer, Ashlee Davis, at 202-401-9501 or Ashlee.Davis@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Cc: Bernard Sadusky
James V. Foran

Grant project area affected	Specific project	Description of change
A: State Success Factors	Program Evaluation (#02/01)	Shift \$294,070 in unexpended year 1 contractual funds to years 3 and 4 to account for year 1 delays in deliverables and the development of the overall evaluation plan with the University System of Maryland.
B: Standards and Assessments	Formative Assessment (#03/02)	Reallocate unspent personnel, fringe benefits, and travel funds due to late hiring to the contractual category for years 2 through 4 to expand field-testing activities, conduct meetings and presentations with LEAs, and pay for annual membership to a State collaboration.
B: Standards and Assessments	Curriculum and Assessment Development CTE-SREB (#06/76)	Shift \$38,923 in unexpended year one contractual funds to years 2 and 3, as development of Courses I and II for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program of study for Construction Management and Design did not occur in year 1 as originally planned due to delayed hiring of a curriculum writer. The Department notes that courses I and II will be developed in year 2.
B: Standards and Assessments	World Languages Pipelines (#07/05)	(1) Shift \$206,849 in unspent year 1 personnel, fringe benefits, and contractual funds to year 2 due to delays in hiring and difficulty retaining world language specialists; and (2) The world languages specialists will not be able to complete the development of STEM curriculum modules and online professional development courses for world language teachers due to the hiring difficulties mentioned above. Therefore, the State will establish a memorandum of understanding with the University of Maryland National Foreign Language Center to assist with this work.
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Develop Overall Technology Infrastructure (#08/11)	The technology infrastructure build-out took longer than expected, resulting in unspent personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, and supplies funds in year 1. The State will shift a total of \$1,824,792 in unspent year 1 funds to year 2 due to the delayed start. The State did not complete the following activities in year 1 and will shift them to year 2: training and help desk support, implementation of an enterprise security system, and implementation of the production system.
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Accessing and Using State Data Dashboards (#09/27)	(1) Move the delivery of eight year 2 dashboards to year 3 and replace with eight dashboards originally planned for delivery in year 3. Content and total number of dashboards over three years remains the same. (2) Reallocate \$300,000 in year 1 equipment funds to year 2 to allow for the procurement of load balancing gateways and server memory, which did not occur in year 1 as originally planned. (3) Shift \$287,003 in contractual funds from year 1 to year 2 to account for funds committed in year 1 that will be paid out in year 2.

Grant project area affected	Specific project	Description of change
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Expansion to LDS – Data Exchange (#12/60)	(1) Shift \$140,000 in year 1 contractual funds to year 2 to account for delayed activities and funds committed in year 1 that will be paid out in year 2. The Department notes that the State did not complete the following activities in Year 1 and will shift them to year 2: define data exchange requirements; design data and high level process architecture; select technology approach, assess market tools and tools within MSDE Division of Accountability and Assessment, and evaluate School Interoperability Framework and Common Data Standards for Application Interface transaction record formats and records. The end date of this project remains the same.
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Enhancement to LDS- Develop P-20 and Workforce Data Warehouse and Center (#13/61)	(1) Shift \$365,002 of \$1,000,000 in unspent year 1 equipment funds to year 2 equipment, as no equipment funds were spent in year 1 while the State completed detailed project analysis and planning. (2) Shift the remainder of unspent year 2 equipment funds (\$634,998) to the year 3 contractual category; the State was able to decrease total equipment hardware and software costs by creating a virtual shared development and test environment and sharing enterprise software licensing with project #11/29. (3) Reallocate supplies and travel funds for years 1 through 3 (\$3,900) to the year 3 contractual category, as the State determined that there are no travel and supplies costs in this project. (4) The \$864,000 shifted to the year 3 contractual category will cover increased estimated software development costs.
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Develop and Implement a State Curriculum Management System (#14/31)	Shift all year 1 equipment funds (\$1,469,044) to year 2, as procurement of the Curriculum Management System will now occur in that year rather than in year 1 as originally planned.
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Implement a Statewide System to Support Student Instructional Intervention (#21/42)	Reallocate \$1,300,000 originally budgeted for hardware and software procurements in year 1 to year 2 due to delays in MSDE procurement processes.

Grant project area affected	Specific project	Description of change
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Develop and Implement a Course Registration System (#24/56)	Shift \$2,000,000 in unspent year 1 equipment funds and \$384,293 in unspent year 1 contractual funds to year 2, as many activities did not occur in year 1 as originally planned. The Department notes that the State did not complete the following activities in year 1 and will shift them to year 2: software and hardware procurements, installation of hardware and implementation of software, setup development environments, and the start of development activities.
C: Data Systems to Support Instruction	Implement a System to Support E-Learning (#26/43)	Shift \$2,000,000 in unspent equipment funds to year 2 due to internal procurement delays. The State will utilize an expedited method to procure hardware and software in year 2.
D: Great Teachers and Great Leaders	Expand Educator Information System (#30/49)	Shift \$500,000 in unspent year 1 equipment funds to year 2 due to a delayed start. The State will procure hardware and software for the expansion of the Educator Information System and hire implementation services in year 2 rather than year 1, as originally planned.
D: Great Teachers and Great Leaders	Teach for Maryland (#32/73)	In years 3 and 4, increase the Consortium Manager's time from 50 to 65 percent due to the planned increase in the number of sub-grant partners in those years.
D: Great Teachers and Great Leaders	International Partnerships to Recruit Teachers in Critical Needs Areas (#37/54)	(1) Since no LEAs applied for sub-grants in year 1, shift all year 1 sub-grant funds to year 2 to allow for the hiring of international teachers. (2) Revise the LEA sub-grant application to allow LEAs to customize proposals to include additional costs of recruiting, hiring, and supporting international teachers. Originally, Maryland approximated that this project would allow 160 international teachers to be hired in critical shortage areas in the State; the Department acknowledges that with the revised application process, the State approximates that 140 international teachers will be hired over the course of the grant.
D: Great Teachers and Great Leaders	Teacher Induction Academies (#39/25)	(1) Shift \$312,058 in contractual funds from year 1 to year 2 to allow for payment of the content vendor's year 1 costs. (2) Reduce funds in the personnel and fringe categories because the State believes that project goals can be met in years 2 and 3 with a part-time Program Specialist (65 percent rather than 100 percent). The four-year total for the project budget remains the same.

Grant project area affected	Specific project	Description of change
E: Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools	Extended Learning (#50/58)	(1) Reallocate a total of \$190,324 to the year 2 supplemental funding for participating LEAs category from the following: \$122,718 in unspent year 1 personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, and indirect costs funds due to late hiring; \$60,045 in year 2 personnel and fringe benefits from the unfilled Site Coordinator/Education Staff Specialist position; \$7,561 in year 2 and 3 indirect costs. (2) The \$190,324 reallocated to the supplemental funding for participating LEAs category will be used to provide funds for extended learning opportunities in one of the Tier I and Tier II Breakthrough Zone schools and their feeder schools not awarded an FY13 21 st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant. The funds will be awarded to the school with the highest score after FY13 21 st CCLC funds are exhausted.
E: Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools	Project Lead the Way/Gateway to Technology (#51/71)	(1) Because the State has encountered challenges identifying sites that are ready to implement the Gateway to Technology program, implementation occurred in three of ten schools originally planned for year 1. However, ten schools will implement the program over the course of the grant. To meet this goal, three additional sites have been identified for year 2, and four schools will be identified for year 3. (2) The State will reallocate funds in the supplemental funding for participating LEAs category across years 1 through 3 to align with these changes.