



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 25, 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 May 21, 2012 and June 15, 2012 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 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:

- As noted in Maryland's January 20, 2012 amendment approval letter, the State identified cost savings across several Race to the Top projects after the first year of implementation. The State will redirect \$643,388 of the \$753,971 Year 1 costs savings to Years 2 through 4 contractual in the "Office of Academic Reform and Innovation (#1/78)" project for technical support and oversight for Race to the Top projects.ⁱ Previously this contract was intended to provide support for all Maryland State Department of Education technology projects and was paid by statewide indirect costs funds. Due to the workload associated with Race to the Top technology

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projects, this contract has become completely dedicated to Race to the Top implementation activities. Given the narrowed scope, the State would like to fund the contract for Years 2 through 4 using Race to the Top funds.

- For the project area Great Teachers and Leaders, in the project “Building Leadership Capacity in Low-achieving Urban and Rural Schools (#31/13):” (1) Shift \$543,428 in Year 1 travel, equipment, supplies, and contractual funds to Year 2 to account for project funds that were encumbered in Year 1, but not expended until Year 2. (2) Reallocate \$982,352 from the “Contractual” to the “Other” budget category in Years 1 through 4 to fund the Salisbury University and University of Maryland Eastern Shore program to develop highly effective leaders through a sub-grant instead of a contract.

It is our understanding that the amendment will not result in a change in your State’s performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope of work.

In addition, Maryland clarified performance measures in the project area Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools. In its Race to the Top application, Maryland indicated that 16 schools in the State had been identified as persistently lowest-achieving and that it would implement one of the four school intervention models in each of those 16 schools over the course of the grant period, using 1003(g) School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds. At that time the State committed to updating its targets for the number of schools that would initiate an intervention model in each year of the grant once final determinations were made about which schools would receive SIG grants.

In SY 2010-2011, 11 schools that received SIG grants initiated intervention models. In SY 2011-2012, five additional schools that received SIG grants initiated intervention models. For SYs 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, the State would like to clarify its performance targets to reflect that no models will be initiated in schools in those years because its target of initiating school intervention models in all 16 schools identified as persistently lowest-achieving has been met (see appendix).

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, Ashlee Davis, at 202-401-9501 or Ashlee.Davis@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen

Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Lillian Lowery
James V. Foran

Appendix: Performance Measures (E)(2)

Performance Measures	Actual Data: Baseline	End of SY 2010-2011	End of SY 2011-2012	End of SY 2012-2013	End of SY 2013-2014
The number of schools for which one of the four school intervention models will be initiated each year	16 Tier I and Tier II schools will select one of the four intervention models for implementation beginning in SY 2010-2011.	<p>16 schools will implement one of the four intervention models using 1003(g) School Improvement Grant funds.</p> <p><i>11 schools will implement one of the four intervention models using 1003(g) School Improvement Grant funds</i></p>	<p>16 schools will implement one of the four intervention models.</p> <p><i>5 schools will implement one of the four intervention models.</i></p>	<p>16 schools will implement one of the four intervention models.</p> <p><i>0 schools will implement one of the four intervention models.</i></p>	<p>16 schools will implement one of the four intervention models.</p> <p><i>0 schools will implement one of the four intervention models.</i></p>

¹ Maryland will submit an amendment to propose a use for the remaining \$110,583 of the \$753,971 explained above.