



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

September 9, 2014

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, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. On August 26, 2014, the State submitted 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. 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 following amendments, including an extension to the time period for implementation of one project, as described below.

- In the "Program Evaluation" project (2/1), shift \$166,021 in Year 4 cost savings to Year 5 contractual to continue conducting surveys of teachers, principals, local education agencies (LEAs), and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff in fall 2014 and spring 2015. The surveys, previously issued in fall 2013 and spring 2014, will assess the progress and status of local efforts to transition to the

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202
www.ed.gov

Our mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. The State's external evaluator will conduct the surveys and provide MSDE an analysis of the results so it can provide training and support to LEAs.

- In the "Expand the Education Information System to Accept Additional Data for Reporting" project (30/49), shift t \$253,475 in cost savings from Year 4 to Year 5 Contractual, equipment, and indirect costs to support the implementation of the Educator Information System. Specifically, MSDE will provide LEAs training and technical assistance and support the transition to the new system in Year 5.

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

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, Melissa Siry, at (202) 260-0926 or Melissa.Siry@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Rooney
Acting Director, Policy and Program
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Dr. Lillian Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools
Penelope Thornton-Talley, Esq.
Mary Gable