



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 12, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing in response to New York's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between June 4, and August 7, 2013, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to support amendment requests to its approved Race to the Top plan. As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided the revisions do not change the overall scope and 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 following amendments, including an extension to the time period for implementation of two projects, as described below.

- In the "B1: Development and Evaluation of P-12 Curriculum Modules" project, shift \$840,672 from Year 4 contractual from refined cost estimates for prekindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade English language arts (ELA) and mathematics curriculum modules to Years 4 and 5 contractual to expand module development to include grade 12 "transition courses" for students likely to be placed in remedial courses in postsecondary education. Based on analysis of remediation rates and existing collaboration between New York City high schools and the

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City University of New York (CUNY), the State determined a need to adapt the ELA and mathematics Common Core State Standards-aligned curriculum modules currently being developed and disseminated per the State's Scope of Work to explicitly target students who are likely to graduate from high school with skill deficits. The funds will support development, engagement with faculty from institutions of higher education and high school teachers and principals, and initial pilot implementation in school year (SY) 2013-2014 followed by broader professional development and full availability of transition courses on [engageny.org](http://engageny.org) in SY 2014-2015.

- In the "A1: Performance Management Office (PMO)" project, shift up to \$1,792,995 unspent funds from Years 2-4 based on actual costs and refined estimates to Year 5 to maintain the PMO's support and oversight for Race to the Top implementation, including LEAs work toward the State's reform agenda, through up to September 1, 2015. As described in a May 29, 2013, 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. 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 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 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 New York's Race to the Top Program Officer, Jessie Harteis, at (202) 453-6651 or [Jessie.Harteis@ed.gov](mailto:Jessie.Harteis@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Dr. John B. King, Jr., Commissioner of Education  
 Ken Slentz, Deputy Commissioner, Office of P-12 Education

Don Juron, Chief Financial Officer, New York State Education Department  
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