



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 30, 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 September 30 and October 24, 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 "D6: Model Teacher Induction Program" project, reduce the total budget by \$3,161,918 due to the actual total granted to three Model Teacher Induction programs in April 2012. Funds shift to another project connected to supporting teachers in high-poverty, low-performing schools and in shortage teaching areas: "D4: Higher Education Faculty Development Programs" as described below.

www.ed.gov

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

- In the “D3: Graduate-Level and Undergraduate-Level Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot Program” projects, reduce the total budget by \$1,338,082 due to the actual total granted to the 13 Graduate-Level and Undergraduate-Level Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot programs in July 2011 and November 2012 and extend implementation of both programs to June 30, 2015. During the extended time, programs that received competitive awards will continue implementation, including providing intensive residencies and stipends to prepare candidates to teacher in high-needs schools in New York as initially planned. The State believes additional time will better enable analysis of data gathered from implementation to identify best practices and will provide more time to identify and support candidates to complete the clinically rich program requirements. Funds shift to support teachers in high-poverty, low-performing schools and in shortage teaching areas: “D4: Higher Education Faculty Development Programs” project as described below.
- In the “D4: Higher Education Faculty Development Programs” project, shift \$4.5 million from other projects as described above as well as \$4.7 million from Year 3 contractual to Years 4 and 5 contractual in this project based on the timing of beginning implementation and actual costs in the executed memorandums of understanding with the State University of New York, the City University of New York, and the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities through June 30, 2015. As part of this project, institutions established Higher Education Network Teams, composed of faculty from each institution in the State with a teacher and/or leader preparation program, to receive training on the transition to the Common Core State Standards, performance assessment (e.g., certification examinations, performance evaluations), data-driven instruction, and clinically rich teacher and leader preparation. Given that the memorandum of understanding to establish the Higher Education Faculty Development Programs were not executed until between July and December 2012, and the connection of this initiative to the new New York State certification exams that are required after May 2014, the State believes an extended timeline will enable it to meet its commitments to support higher education faculty with implementation of the State’s reform agenda. It is the Department’s understanding that the State is assessing the quality and progress of implementation of this project through multiple methods including surveys of professional development attendees, quarterly reporting including evidence collection, and progress of each institution’s website dedicated to the project.

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 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 New York's Race to the Top Program Officer, Jessie Harteis, at 202-453-6651 or 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
John Delaney, Director of Operations, Office of P-12 Education
Karen Daugherty, Project Manager, Performance Management Office