



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 1, 2014

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 July 1, 2014, and July 31, 2014, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to support an amendment request 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. 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 amendment, including an extension to the time period for implementation of one project, as described below.

- In the "B1: Evaluation of P-12 Curriculum Modules" project, shift \$1,811,067 from Year 3 to Year 5 based on delays and to extend data collection and analysis through school year (SY) 2014-2015.
 - The State's initial plan included an evaluation of the quality and impact of prekindergarten to grade 12 (PK-12) curriculum modules being developed as part of the State's approach to supporting educators in the transition to the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) beginning in summer 2012. The www.ed.gov

State experienced setbacks implementing the initial evaluation project as planned due to challenges executing an agreement with an evaluator, delays in developing and disseminating the modules to be evaluated, and refinements in the methodology and scope of the evaluation. According to the State, expanding the evaluation to address instructional resources and supplemental guidance, materials, and training, as well as other local activities related to CCLS implementation will better enable it to assess quality and impact of its efforts at the local educational agency (LEA) and school levels and to understand which aspects of its approach were most successfully implemented and under what conditions.

- In order to provide adequate time to collect data, including student outcomes, observations of classroom practice, and interviews with educators, to develop approximately one dozen case studies, the State is approved to extend the project period for up to \$3,622,134 to June 30, 2015. It is the Department's understanding that the State intends to complete analyses and deliverables through fall 2015 and will utilize other funding sources beyond the extended grant period to conclude activities.ⁱ To clarify the scope, the State will rename this project as "B1: CCLS Implementation Evaluation."

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. As described in an April 24, 2014, amendment approval letter, prior to October 31, 2014, the Department expects to receive a record of the total funding approved for LEAs' Year 5 Scopes of Work.

The State will also reinstate Brewster Central School District and Hyde Park Central School District back as participating LEAs as of November 12, 2013, and October 24, 2013, respectively. According to NYSED, while these LEAs communicated intent to withdraw in the fall of SY 2013-2014, they maintained the commitments in their Memorandum of Understanding, including participation in State-delivered training during SY 2013-2014. The reinstatement of these LEAs will not require a change in allocation or distribution of funds.

It is our understanding that this amendment and no-cost extension 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 expect 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. The State's Scope of Work will also be updated to reflect approved extensions.

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/

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

cc: Dr. John B. King, Jr., Commissioner of Education
Cosimo Tangorra, Jr., 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

¹ Given that State funds will now be used to fund a portion of the Common Core Implementation Evaluation project, it is the Department's understanding that the State will propose a future amendment for \$778,138.