



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 30, 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 September 8, 2014 and September 29, 2014, 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. 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 "A2: Network Teams" project, based on actual costs in Years 2-4 shift unexpended funds to extend implementation of Network Team Institutes, including support of New York State Department of Education (NYSED) personnel and related costs, through school year (SY) 2014-2015.

From August 2011 through August 2014, the State reported it has held 23 Network Team Institutes (ranging from two to five days in length) for approximately 5,000 unique participants providing training in areas such as aligning curriculum to the

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

Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), using data-driven instruction methods, and designing a quality teacher and leader effectiveness system. According to the State, this additional time will enable continued support for Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), local educational agencies (LEAs), and educators, and will better enable the State to differentiate trainings and tools, and to further develop partnerships to sustain ongoing professional development. In order to continue support, including at least three statewide Network Team Institutes in SY 2014-2015, the State is approved for a no-cost extension for up to \$707,547 through August 31, 2015. The Department looks forward to hearing updates about the State's planning and implementation of Network Team Institutes during SY 2014-2015.

- In the "D7: Teacher and Principal Evaluation and Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (STLE)" project, shift funds from Years 3 contractual to Year 5 contractual to expand funding available for STLE-Dissemination (STLE-D) grants.

Other funding sources were utilized for a portion of the professional development related costs to develop effective practice videos. According to the State, sufficient funds are available to complete the total planned library of videos outlined in the State's plan. The State will shift \$1 million in unexpended Race to the Top funds within this project budget to expand funding available for STLE-D. According to the State, it received more qualified applicants than initially anticipated and expanding funding available for grants to LEAs or BOCES to share best practices around developing comprehensive human capital systems grounded in implementation of Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) will better enable it to meet its goals for this competitive grant program.

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.

It is our understanding that these amendments and no-cost extension will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will it 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 this approved extension.

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
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