



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 29, 2012

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. Between June 13, 2012 and June 28, 2012, the State submitted amendment requests to the U. S. Department of Education (Department); the State provided additional clarification as requested. As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your State's plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On October 4, 2011, the Department sent a letter and revised "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to Governors of grantee States indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program *Principles*, which are also included in that document.

I approve the following amendments:

- For project A2, Network Teams:
 - Hire three additional staff members for the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Field Services in the New York State Education Department (NYSED): a Project Coordinator, and two Project Assistants. The staff are needed to build out NYSED's oversight capacity to assess and support Network Team implementation. Funding in the amount of \$859,029 will be reallocated from "Supplemental Funding to Participating LEAs" in the project-level budget for the Office of Instructional, Curriculum and Field Services to personnel, fringe, and indirect costs in the same budget, to support the new positions. The State has indicated that the reallocated funds were previously budgeted to provide allocations to new charter schools that want to become Race to the Top participating LEAs. Those LEAs would have to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and LEA scope of work, in alignment with the requirements for existing Race to the Top

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participating LEAs, to become eligible for the funds. As of June 2012, no new charter schools have completed this process. Thus, the State has asserted that the \$140,971 that would remain in "Supplemental Funding to Participating LEAs" will be sufficient for any charter schools that may elect to become participating LEAs.

It is our understanding that these amendments will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope of work. Please note that 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 your Race to the Top Program Officer, Bridget Kelly, at bridget.kelly@ed.gov or 202-453-5534.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Dr. John B. King, Jr., Commissioner of Education
Ken Slentz, Deputy Commissioner, Office of P-12 Education
Rebecca Kennard, Executive Director, Race to the Top Performance Management
Office
John Delaney, Director of Operations, Office of P-12 Education