



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 10, 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 1, 2012 and July 3, 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 a 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 D4, Clinically Rich Principal Preparation Programs
  - The State reallocates \$10 million to support a Higher Education Faculty Development Program. These funds were formerly budgeted for a competitive grant for the design and piloting of clinically rich principal preparation programs. The new program, which would replace the existing Project D4 (Clinically Rich Principal Preparation Programs), has the same overall goal: to improve teacher and principal preparation programs in the State.
  - The State has indicated that the objective for Higher Education Faculty Development Program is to ensure that higher education arts and sciences, teacher education and educational leadership faculty have the support and guidance needed to successfully incorporate any new teacher and school building leader requirements in their courses.
  - The State will enter into agreements with the State University of New York, the City University of New York, and the Commission on Independent Colleges and

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- Universities to create the Higher Education Faculty Development Program that is expected to include representatives from every institution in the State that has a teacher and/or leader preparation program.
- The institutions will create Higher Education Network Teams, composed of higher education faculty at the State University of New York, the City University of New York, and independent institutions. The faculty would be provided with professional development from experts in the field and would conduct training at their campuses for other faculty members, focusing on: the transition to the Common Core State Standards, performance assessments (e.g. certification examinations, performance evaluations), data-driven instruction, and clinically rich teacher and leader preparation. The members of the Higher Education Network Teams would also collaborate with regional P-12 stakeholders and create other resources to support faculty in the areas of focus. The New York State Education Department will monitor program progress against approved workplans.
  - The funds budgeted for this project will be expended on items such as travel, conference facilities, technology, salaries for project managers, and supplies. Most expenses appear in the contractual line, due to the MOUs with the institutions of higher education.

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](mailto: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