



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 8, 2013

The Honorable John Kasich
Office of the Governor
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Kasich:

I am writing in response to Ohio's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between October 15, 2012, and February 26, 2013, the State submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your 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 to the State's approved budget. The majority of the budget shifts described in this letter result from differences between actual and estimated costs and funds encumbered but not expended prior to the end of the Year 2 budget year. The remaining requests shift unspent Year 2 funds resulting from the State's use of other sources of funding to support Race to the Top activities and projects in the second year of implementation.

Unexpended Funds: For the State's approved project-level budgets, redirect \$39,424,395 of unspent Year 2 funds into Years 3 and 4 to cover funds encumbered in contracts but not expended in Year 2 due to the contractual payment schedules, or funds allocated to but not expended by participating local educational agencies (LEAs) in Year 2.

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.

Activities supported with funds from other sources: For the State's approved project-level budgets, redirect \$8,116,675 of unspent Year 2 funds due to the State using other source of funds to complete Race to the Top activities and projects to Years 3 and 4 to support various aspects of its Race to the Top plan as described below:

- For section (B)(3) in the "Provide Curriculum Resources to Support Teachers" project, redirect a total of \$425,000 as follows:
 - Redirect \$225,000 split across the Years 3 (\$100,000) and 4 (\$125,000) contractual budgets to broaden an existing contract to develop professional development and training for K-12 educators and higher education faculty on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and aspects of the upcoming PARCC assessments, particularly on designing and evaluating instructional materials. Specifically, this funding will expand the current support beyond participating Race to the Top LEAs to all Ohio LEAs.
 - Redirect \$200,000 split evenly across the Years 3 and 4 contractual budgets to establish a contract with an external provider, such as an institution of higher education (IHE), to provide support for K-12 educators completing coursework on CCSS and the State's new standards and assessments. Specifically, this project will support participating Race to the Top LEAs, non-participating LEAs, and IHE faculty.

- For section (C)(3) in the "Personalize Learning Through Formative Instruction" project, redirect a total of \$2,453,838 to the Years 3 and 4 contractual budgets to expand the State's Instructional Improvement System (IIS). The State will use these funds to sub-contract with an external provider to integrate the Ohio Board of Regents' iLearnOhio resource database into the State's IIS system.

- For section (D)(2) in the "Redesign Educator Performance Management Systems" project, redirect a total of \$3,939,162 to refine the project plan and budget as follows:
 - Redirect \$1,665,000 split over Years 3 and 4 to expand student growth measures (SGM) training to include additional assessment literacy training on local SGM components of the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES). This training will supplement the State's existing plan for SGM training to increase educators' understanding of assessment literacy, specifically test design and application of test data results, in order to provide the best instructional opportunities for students and have that instruction be reflected in OTES and OPES. Of this amount, \$1,050,000 will be used to support regional assessment literacy specialists to train educators, \$225,000 will be used to support a specialist coordinator, and \$390,000 will support the design and implementation of the trainings.
 - Redirect \$1,525,819 split over Years 3 and 4 to expand the State's work related to the educator summative assessments for its Resident Educator induction and support program. Of this amount, \$20,000 will be used to develop Resident Educator summative assessments and protocols; and \$1,232,139 will be used to contract with an external provider to provide

support for implementation and licensing of the Resident Educator summative assessments. In addition, \$273,680 will be used to develop and conduct an external validation study of the Resident Educator summative assessments.

- Redirect \$748,343 split evenly across Years 3 and 4 to support the Ohio Instructional Leadership Academy, an 18-month academy for K-12 mid-career principals focused on developing instructional leadership skills through face-to-face and online experiences.
- For section (D)(5) in the “Support Educators to Increase Student Growth” project, redirect \$1,298,675 to refine the implementation plan and budget as follows:
 - Redirect \$998,675 split evenly across Years 3 and 4 to expand the State’s current supports for Ohio Appalachian Collaborative schools with regard to dual enrollment, formative instructional practice, and relationships with local IHEs.
 - Redirect \$300,000 split evenly across Years 3 and 4 to support a contract to develop Literacy Design Collaborative and Mathematics Design Collaborative trainers in Ohio. Specifically, Ohio will implement a train-the-trainer model to build literacy and mathematics expertise in educators of additional non-tested grades and subjects.

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 and objectives of the work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department’s website as a record of the amendment.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Ohio’s Race to the Top Program Officer, Rebecca Zazove, at 202-260-1425 or Rebecca.Zazove@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Cc: Michael Sawyers, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction
 Maggie Niedzwiecki, Race to the Top State lead