UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 24, 2014

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, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between January 28, 2014 and June 23, 2014, the State held conversations with and 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. 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 and approved or denied. 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 Race to the Top program *Principles* included in the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document issues to Governors of grantee States in October 2011.

I approve the following amendments, including extensions to the time period for implementation of several projects, as described below.

- For the "Redesign Educator Performance Management Systems" project, shift a total of $1,020,000 to Year 5 contractual to provide additional supports for educators to implement the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and Ohio Principal Evaluation (OPES), and extend the project period to June 30, 2015. This funding results from differences identified across all project-level budgets in the Great Teachers and Leaders area between actual and estimated costs and funds expended to date, including those resulting from the State's use of other sources of funding or leveraging allocations in duplicative line items to support Race to the Top activities and projects in the fourth year of implementation.[i]
    - Of this amount, $408,750 will be used for contracts with Education Service Centers (ESCs) to fund five Student Growth Measures (SGM) Specialists and one Coordinator in school year (SY) 2014-2015. The SGM Specialists and Coordinator will provide additional technical assistance on SGMs, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), and the electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation System (eTPES). The State reports that extending this work will ensure that LEAs have the necessary support to continue successful implementation of evaluation systems.
    - In addition, $611,250 will be used for contracts with ESCs to fund five Assessment Literacy Specialists and one Coordinator in SY 2014-2015. The Assessment Literacy Specialists and Coordinator will provide additional assessment literacy trainings and technical assistance on local SGM components of the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES). The State reports that additional time is needed to deliver trainings because this work was initially delayed. According to the State, the trainings offered in Year 5 will be used to build capacity at the local level and better prepare educators to measure student growth.

- For the "Personalize Learning Through Formative Instruction" project, shift a total of $960,000 funds to Year 5 contractual to continue the work of Formative Instructional Practices (FIP), and extend the project period to June 30, 2015. Of this amount, shift $828,583 from unexpended Year 4 contractual funds within this project budget, and redirect $131,417 from unexpended Year 4 contractual funds from the "Provide Curriculum Resources to Support Teachers" project budget. The State will use ten regional FIP Specialists to provide participating LEAs with ongoing technical assistance on FIP. According to the State, this extension is needed to increase usage of FIP application modules and further support implementation of formative assessment.

As described in a March 27, 2013, amendment approval letter, the Department indicated that it generally approves the State's process to review LEA sub-grant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after September 23, 2014. Prior to June 30, 2014, the Department expects the State to submit a record of each participating LEA project approved by the State for a no-cost extension and the total funding approved for LEAs' Year 5 Scopes of Work.

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It is our understanding that these amendments and no-cost extensions 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 are expecting 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. 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 Ohio's Race to the Top Program Officer, Megan Oberst, at 202-453-5673 or megan.oberst@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Dr. Richard Ross, Superintendent of Public Instruction
        Scott Spears, Director, Race to the Top

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[i] The Great Teachers and Leaders area includes the "Support Educators Through Evaluation Results," "Redesign Educator Performance Management Systems," "Ensure Equitable Distribution of Educators," "Support Educators to Increase Student Growth," and "Expand Effective Educator Preparation Programs" projects.