



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 24, 2014

The Honorable John Kasich  
Office of the Governor  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> 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 January 28, 2014 and June 19, 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. 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:

- For section (D)(3) "Expand Effective Educator Preparation Program" increase the Year 4 other category by \$1,681,110 to cover higher than projected costs for the TeachOhio program. The State reports that these funds will be used to meet the ongoing demand to credential teachers in hard-to-staff subjects.
  - Of this amount, \$587,157 is available from section (D)(2) "Support Educators Through Evaluation Results" due to differences between actual and estimated costs.
  - In addition, \$712,064 is available from section (D)(3) "Expand Effective Educator Preparation Program" due to low interest in the teacher incentive program and differences between actual and estimated costs.

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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.*

- The remainder is available due to 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.<sup>i</sup>

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 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](mailto:megan.oberst@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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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<sup>i</sup> 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.