



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 15, 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, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between January 28, 2014, and September 9, 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. 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.

- In the "Strengthen Assessment Leadership" project:
  - Shift \$350,000 from differences identified between actual and estimated costs in Year 4 contractual to Year 5 contractual. The State will use these funds to provide performance task writing workshops and train additional educators on performance-based assessments through June 30, 2015. The State will also provide teacher stipends for presentations on performance-based assessments at statewide conferences.

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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.*

- Shift \$310,000 from differences identified between actual and estimated costs in Year 4 contractual and travel costs to Year 5 contractual to continue to support career technical teachers in a consortia of joint vocational schools and career technical organizations through June 30, 2015. The State reports that it will use these funds to revise the curriculum model for career technical education and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (CTE/STEM). The State will also use these funds to develop an additional project-based learning center to train educators on CTE/STEM curriculum.

As described in a March 27, 2014, 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 State submitted 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.

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

Sincerely,

Patrick Rooney  
Acting Director, Policy and Program Implementation  
Implementation and Support Unit

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