



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 2, 2011

The Honorable John R. 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. On February 28, 2011, the state submitted an amendment request 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 changes do not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On January 6, 2011, the Department sent a letter and "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 am pleased to approve the following amendment: For section E(2)(i)- Ohio's Race to the Top plan includes funding for early college high schools (ECHS) to serve as laboratories of innovation for startups and struggling traditional schools. Through this model, these schools provide students dual enrollment opportunities with local participating colleges. In its original budget narrative, Ohio inadvertently left out The Charles School, a charter ECHS, when it budgeted to support the nine existing ECHS schools. This amendment seeks to correct this error by including The Charles School and expanding the number and variety of ECHS school models supported with Race to the Top funds. The total activity budget as listed in the approved budget narrative (\$3,492,000) will not change; rather the allocation amounts for the original 9 schools will be adjusted to split the funds evenly among all 10 schools.

It is our understanding that the amendment will not substantially change the State's scope of work. Further, it is our understanding that the State believes that, if the amendment were to affect its performance measures and outcomes in this assurance area, the addition of another model would most likely result in improved performance. The Department will review Ohio's

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progress to evaluate the effect of the amendment on the State's performance measures and outcomes. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendment.

I am confident that Ohio will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. 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
Deputy Director, Implementation and Support Unit

cc: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Deborah Delisle
State Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Marilyn Troyer
Ohio's Race to the Top lead, Michael Sawyers