



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 15, 2011

The Honorable John R. 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. On June 7, 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 a change does 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), Ohio's approved plan includes funding to contract with an external provider to provide Closing the Achievement Gap Cultural Competency professional development to 1,000 educators per year. Upon further reflection, the State believes that an annual cultural competency professional development event would be more effective if supplemented with on-going, site-based, and job-embedded training. This amendment proposes to change the implementation methodology as outlined in the scope of work. In addition to holding an annual event to train at least 1,000 educators, the State proposes to also provide districts the opportunity to apply for competitive funding to implement cultural competency professional development at the local level. The State believes hosting the annual training will cost less money than originally budgeted, and proposes to use the amounts not needed for the annual training to support these competitive grants to districts. The "Turn Around Ohio's Lowest-

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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.*

Achieving Schools" total project budget, related performance measures, and implementation timelines will remain unchanged.

It is our understanding that the amendments will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope of work. 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](mailto:rebecca.zazove@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Stan Heffner, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Michael Sawyers, Ohio Race to the Top Lead