



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 29, 2011

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 project. Between August 10-19, 2011, the State 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 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 amendments:

- Shift the funds and associated benefits for two full time Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) positions to contractual expenses in the budget summary table. Ohio's application included two full time OBR positions: a position to oversee the Woodrow Wilson initiatives in the (D)(3) project "Expand Effective Educator Preparation Programs" and a position to develop and maintain a new accountability system for higher education in the (D)(4) "Increase Higher Education Accountability" project. After further reflection, Ohio determined that changing these two OBR positions to three contracted positions overseen by OBR would expand the ability of the OBR to complete the work and meet the goals of the proposal, and allow Ohio to align performance metrics and outcomes to individuals who are uniquely qualified for the job duties. These three positions will continue to support the initiatives and work envisioned and described in the approved application. As a result, the following changes will be made to the State's plan for years 2-4:

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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.

- Change the two full time Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) positions into three contractual positions.
- Move related funding from the salaries and fringe budget categories to the contractual categories for the (D)(3) “Expand Effective Educator Preparation Programs” and the (D)(4) “Increase Higher Education Accountability” projects. (See attached chart for details on the budget changes related to this amendment.)

Ohio’s request indicated that year 1 activities for these projects were covered through State funds. Ohio will submit an additional amendment at a future date to propose how to redirect \$495,000 budgeted for the two full-time OBR staff and associated benefits, as well as the work completed in year 1.

- In the Woodrow Wilson teaching fellowship program, adjust the number of fellows supported through this program. The Woodrow Wilson teaching fellowship program in Ohio is funded by Race to the Top and the Choose Ohio First (COF) scholarship program. In its application, Ohio proposed a four year budget to support 450 teaching fellows with \$11,250,000 of Race to the Top funds, as well as \$10,315,000 of COF funds. Due to decreased appropriations in the state’s biennial budget, the State anticipates a decrease in the COF funds available to support this program. As a result of the overall budget for the program decreasing, the State will serve fewer fellows in the Woodrow Wilson teaching fellowship program. The State is confident it can still support a high quality Woodrow Wilson fellow program and, with other initiatives focused on recruiting qualified math and science teachers such as the Teach Ohio program, reach its overall related performance measures and benchmarks. The following changes will be made to the State’s plan:
 - Reduce the number of Woodrow Wilson teaching fellows over four years from 450 to 375.
 - Reduce the amount of COF funds supporting this program over four years, from \$10,315,000 to \$7,615,000.
 - Reallocate the \$11,250,000 Race to the Top funds within the program to partially offset the reduction of COF funds. (See attached chart for details about how the funds support various activities and services within the program.)
- Correct an error in the State scope of work to reflect the accurate timeline for reporting principal evaluation data, as indicated in the approved application. The principal evaluation data will be publicly reported at the end of the 2012-2013 school year, as indicated in the approved application (page D2-22).

It is our understanding that these amendments will not result in a change in Ohio’s performance measures and outcomes, nor will it 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(s).

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,

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

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

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program:

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program Costs	Original COF Budget	Original RTT Budget	Revised COF Budget	Revised RTT Budget
Fellow Stipends	450 fellows @ \$5,000 = \$2,250,000	450 fellows @ \$25,000 = \$11,250,000	60 fellows @ \$30,000 = \$1,800,000	315 fellows @ \$30,000 = \$9,450,000
Mentoring	450 fellows @ \$6,000 = \$2,700,000	-	75 fellows @ \$6,000 = \$450,000	300 fellows @ \$6,000 = \$1,800,000
Institutional Grant	7 universities @ \$500,000 = \$3,500,000	-	7 universities @ \$500,000 = \$3,500,000	-
Recruiting Expenses	\$1,140,000	-	\$1,140,000	-
Assessment and Evaluation	\$725,000	-	\$725,000	-
Totals	\$10,315,000	11,250,000	7,615,000	11,250,000

Board of Regents Positions:

	Original	Revised
Salary	Position 1 and 2 salary (including 1.5% cost of living increase per year) x 4 years = \$1,104,544	Position 1, 2, and 3 contract x 3 years = \$918,000
Benefits	Position 1 and 2 total benefits x 4 years = \$309,272	NA
Total	\$1,413,816	\$918,000
Difference		\$495,000 ⁱ

ⁱ Ohio will submit an additional amendment at a future date to describe its use of the remaining \$495,000