



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 9, 2012

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. On November 22, 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 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:

- For the project area of Standards and Assessments, revise the approach to the development of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) through a cross-State collaboration with the State of Maryland. This revision includes a year shift in the implementation of the new assessment (from fall 2013 to fall 2014) to allow sufficient time for development work and piloting of the assessment, and an adjustment of the budget allocation for this work to align with the revised approach. The following changes will be made to the State's budget:
 - Shift \$245,600 of the budget allocation (\$61,400 for KRA training supplies and \$184,200 for a contract with Education Service Centers to provide training on the KRA) from year 3 to year 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.

- Redistribute the budget allocation for a KRA contract in year 1 (\$754,400) to reflect the proportion of work to be completed each year: \$100,000 in year 2, \$340,000 in year 3, and \$314,400 in year 4.
- For the project area of Data Systems to Support Instruction, adjust the procurement strategy for activities related to consolidating data tools and implementing web portals. Ohio's original plan for consolidating data tools and implementing web portals included a procurement to cover the analysis, design, and implementation of consolidating data tools, as well as a different procurement for the analysis, design, and implementation of implementing web portals. After further reflection, Ohio determined that the procurement efforts of the projects should be combined (one RFP to cover the work related to consolidating the data tools *and* implementing web portals) and that a two-phase procurement should be executed. The first phase would include analysis and design of both the data tools and web portals solutions, while the second phase would include implementation of the solutions identified in phase 1. As a result of this change in procurement strategy, the timelines of associated deliverables will be shifted as follows:
 - The original timeline of issuing two RFPs (one for the consolidation of data tools and one for the implementation of web portals) in September 2011, awarding the contracts in December 2011, and closing out the projects in March 2013 is now split into two phases. The analysis and design phase (phase 1) of the procurement strategy was accelerated by three months – Ohio reported on issuing the analysis and design RFP in June 2011 and reported on awarding the contract in September 2011. The implementation phase (phase 2) of the procurement strategy will be delayed by 3 to 6 months, with Ohio reporting on issuing the implementation RFP in March 2012, awarding the contract in June 2012, completing the work March 2013, and closing out the project June 2013.

The Department acknowledges the timeline shifts related to this part of the State's Scope of Work prior to approval of this change in approach. It is our understanding that Ohio will still accomplish within the grant period all of the activities and deliverables articulated in its approved application.

It is our understanding that the amendment 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 amendments. 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
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

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

