



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 19, 2014

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, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between January 28, 2014, and September 19, 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 amendment, including extensions to the time period for implementation of a project, as described below.

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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.

- In the “Personalize Learning Through Formative Instruction” project, shift \$2,000,000 from Year 4 contractual to Year 5 contractual to fund the development of an Early Warning Indicator (EWI) system through June 30, 2015. The State reports that these funds are available due to the use of other resources to integrate the iLearn Ohio system with the Instructional Improvement System (IIS). The State will use the EWI system to enhance the IIS by providing an analysis of the data in the State’s current systems (*e.g.*, the IIS and the Ohio Education Research Center (OERC) data system).

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.

Sincerely,

//s//

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