



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 28, 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. Between January 10 and January 14, 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.

Ohio submitted two types of amendments. The first type, applying to all but three of the submitted amendments, addresses minor timeline adjustments. These adjustments are necessary because in its Race to the Top application, Ohio's activity timelines were based on the state's anticipation of receiving its full Race to the Top allocation in September of 2010. However, the state will not receive its full Race to the Top allocation until early in 2011. Ohio state procurement law prohibits the state from beginning a project until it has received the full award. As a result, the state needed to make minor adjustments to the project periods for some activities. Moreover, in its application, Ohio provided activity timelines that reflected monthly start dates, periods of implementation, and/or completion dates depending on the activity. In the scope of work, the state provides the year and quarter in which it will report on the completion of the activity (with a few exceptions where progress rather than completion is reported). A complete list of these minor timeline adjustments is attached.

The remaining three amendments include a more involved change in a project timeline and adjustments to performance measure targets for the first two project years for two projects.

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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.

Two amendments affect the “Redesign Educator Performance Management Systems” project. In its application, Ohio proposed to report publicly on principal evaluation data in July 2011. The state will still collect and use this data during the 2011-2012 school year. The state’s amendment proposes to report that data in September 2012. Additionally, Ohio proposed to amend the targets for the first two years for the performance measure relating to *the percentage of participating school districts with qualifying evaluation systems for principals*, by changing the target for year 1 from 25% to 10%, and year 2 from 50% to 40%. This shift in timeline will allow Ohio to further collaborate with administrator associations, LEA personnel, and national experts to design and implement additional differentiated professional development and conduct added data analysis to support the effective implementation of the principal evaluation system. Although the year 1 and year 2 targets are altered, the state is retaining and not changing its year 3 and 4 targets.

The third amendment affects the “Personalize Learning through Formative Instruction” project’s performance measure targets, as a result of a year delay in providing professional development on formative assessments (see the attachment for more details on the timeline adjustment). Due to this year delay, Ohio proposed to make the following adjustments to the related performance measures:

- 1) For the performance measure *the percentage of educators in participating school districts that receive professional development with face-to-face and online components*, change the target for year 1 from 5% to N/A and in year 2 from 15% to 20%;
- 2) For the performance measure *the percentage of educators who have completed at least one component of online instructional professional development*, change the target for year 1 from 10% to N/A and year 2 from 25% to 35%. The state is retaining and not changing its targets for years 3 and 4.

I am pleased to approve the amendments provided above and those included in the attachment. 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//

Joseph C. Conaty, Ph.D.
Interim Director, Race to the Top Program

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

Item #	Application criterion and specific project affected	Activity affected	Description of amendment
1	A3: Engage Stakeholders in Implementation (\$1,340,335)	Develop communications and stakeholder engagement plan, leveraging private sector partners' communications and stakeholder engagement expertise	Application: complete Dec 2010 (budget narrative p. 16) SOW: complete in the Jan-March 2011 quarter.

DC Timeline Changes

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January 13, 2011

Item #	Application criterion and specific project affected	Activity affected	Description of amendment
1	B3: Provide Curriculum Resources to Support Teachers (\$1,094,400)	Release of RFP to contract with provider to support development of the Eye of Integration	Application: release RFP Sep-Dec 2010 (budget narrative p. 31) SOW: contract finalized in the July-Sep 2011 quarter.
2	B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964),	Identifying phase 1 LEAs and schools interested in piloting and evaluating formative assessments for middle school	Application: implementation Sep 2010 (budget narrative p. 24) SOW: complete in the Apr-June 2011 quarter.
3	B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964),	Launch and run program at 3 Phase 1 LEAs and provide ongoing training to teachers on development and evaluation of formative assessments	Application: start Oct 2010 (budget narrative p. 24) SOW: report in the Sept 2011 quarter (State will begin implementation in the April-June 2011 quarter).

DC Timeline Changes

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<p>4</p>	<p>January 13, 2011 B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964),</p>	<p>Identifying phase 2 LEAs and schools interested in piloting and evaluating formative assessments for middle school</p>	<p>Application: start Aug 2011 (budget narrative p. 24) SOW: complete in the April-June 2012 quarter.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964),</p>	<p>Launch and run program at 3 Phase 2 LEAs and provide ongoing training to teachers on development and evaluation of formative assessments</p>	<p>Application: start Aug 2011 (budget narrative p. 24) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2012 quarter.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964),</p>	<p>Launch and run program at 3 Phase 3 LEAs and provide ongoing training to teachers on development and evaluation of formative assessments</p>	<p>Application: start Aug 2012 (budget narrative p. 24) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2013 quarter.</p>

DC Timeline Changes

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7	<p>January 13, 2011 B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964),</p>	<p>Formative assessment strategies and items available to the field</p>	<p>Application: start Aug 2012 (budget narrative p. 25) SOW: complete in the Oct-Dec 2013 quarter.</p>
8	<p>B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964)</p>	<p>Identifying new LEAs and schools to participate in piloting performance-based assessments</p>	<p>Application: start Sep 2010 (budget narrative p. 24) SOW: complete in the Apr-June 2011 quarter.</p>
9	<p>B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964)</p>	<p>Conduct performance-based assessment pilots in 23 LEAs</p>	<p>Application: complete July 2011 (budget narrative p. 24) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2011 quarter.</p>
10	<p>B3: Strengthen Assessment Leadership (\$3,959,964)</p>	<p>Develop technical manual, assessment materials, training on administration procedures for teachers and professional development for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment</p>	<p>Application: complete July 2012 (p. 25) SOW: complete in the July-Sep 2012 quarter.</p>

Item #	Application criterion and specific project affected	Activity affected	Description of amendment
1	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Secure contract between to supply linkage services to participating LEAs;	Application: complete Feb-Mar 2011 (budget narrative p. 35) SOW: complete in the Apr-June 2011 quarter.
2	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Develop linkage system support tools, and PD materials and protocols	Application: complete Jan 2011 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the April-June 2011 quarter.
3	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Establish support infrastructure for educators (webinars, help lines, online support, help desk)	Application: complete Jan 2011 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the April- June 2011 quarter.
4	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Make online learning courses available to all teachers in Ohio	Application: complete Oct 2010 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the Jan- March 2011 quarter.
5	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Disseminate value-added toolkit to schools and regional personnel	Application: complete Dec 2010 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the Jan- March 2011 quarter.

6	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Conduct webinars for administrators on teacher-level reporting; Develop value-added regional trainer competencies and training protocol	Application: complete Dec 2010 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the Jan- March 2011 quarter.
7	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Review and update professional development materials to integrate expanded Value-Added, expanded growth measures, and upgraded data systems	Application: start Jan 2011 (p. 35) SOW: start in the April-June 2011 quarter.
8	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Deliver PD to all personnel (grades 4-8) receiving teacher-level data	Application: start Jan-Feb 2011 (p. 35) SOW: start in the April-June 2011 quarter
9	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Issue RFP for ODE enhanced student-teacher linkage system	Application: complete Dec 2011 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the Jan-March 2012 quarter.

10	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Produce hardware/software for ODE enhanced student teacher linkage system	Application: Oct-Dec 2011 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the Jan- March 2013 quarter.
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11	C2: Expand Value-Added Statewide	Complete installation of hardware/software for ODE enhanced student teacher linkage system	Application: complete Jan/Feb 2012 (p. 35) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2013 quarter.
13	C3: Personalize Learning through Formative Instruction (\$4,503,790)	Develop online segments of professional development	Application: start Sept 2010 (p. 46) SOW: complete in the Apr- June 2011 quarter.

14	C3: Personalize Learning through Formative Instruction (\$4,503,790)	Recruit and provide training to formative assessment professional development coaches	Application: Oct 2010 (p. 46) SOW: complete in the July- Sept 2011 quarter.
15	C3: Personalize Learning through Formative Instruction (\$4,503,790)	Deliver training sessions for coaches	Application: Dec 2010 (p. 46) SOW: complete in the Sept 2011 quarter.

18	C3: Personalize Learning through Formative Instruction (\$4,503,790)	Begin PD with teams of teachers in selected schools	<p>Application: Feb 2011 (p. 46)</p> <p>SOW: complete in the Oct- Dec 2011 quarter.</p>
19	C3: Personalize Learning through Formative Instruction (\$4,503,790)	Provide support and TA to coaches and teachers	<p>Application: start Oct 2010 (p. 46)</p> <p>SOW: report progress in the Jan- March 2012 quarter.</p>

Item #	Application criterion and specific project affected	Activity affected	Description of amendment
1	D2: Redesign Educator Performance Management Systems (\$3,173,886)	Develop the evaluation training and credentialing program	Application: complete March 2011 (p. 56) SOW: complete in the Apr-June 2011 quarter.
2	D2: Redesign Educator Performance Management Systems (\$3,173,886)	Publicly report evaluation data for principals aggregated by school in participating and involved LEAs	Application: complete July 2011 (56) SOW: complete in the Jul-Sept 2012 quarter.
3	D2: Support Educators through evaluation results	<u>Design</u> training and credentialing process for mentors who will support resident educators.	Application: design process June 2010 (p. 51) SOW: implement process in the Jan-March 2011 quarter.
4	D3: Expand Effective Educator Preparation Programs (\$2,091,421)	Identify LEAs to partner with Teach Ohio providers	Application: complete Nov 2010 (p. 61) SOW: complete in the Jan-Mar 2011 quarter.
5	D3: Expand Effective Educator Preparation Programs (\$2,091,421)	Recruit 150 mid-career professionals into the Teach Ohio program	Application: complete Jan 2011 (61) SOW: complete in the April-June 2011 quarter.

6	D3: Expand Effective Educator Preparation Programs (\$2,091,421)	Launch the Teach Ohio program	Application: complete Jan 2011 (p. 61) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2011 quarter.
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Item #	Application criterion and specific project affected	Activity affected	Description of amendment
1	E2: Turn around OH's lowest-achieving schools	Collect first year data on implementation and impact from the 35 lowest-achieving schools	Application: start June-July 2010 (85) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2011 quarter.
2	E2: Turn around OH's lowest-achieving schools	Select external provider to implement the deliverables identified in the RFP	Application: Oct 2010 (85) SOW: complete by Jan 2011.
3	E2: Turn around OH's lowest-achieving schools	Complete first of 4 sessions at OSU for 41 (35 Tier I & II - 6 Tier III) principals of turnaround schools and 8 transformation specialists	Application: complete Aug 2010 (85) SOW: complete in the Jan-Mar 2011 quarter.
4	E2: Turn around OH's lowest-achieving schools	ONET identifies 18 schools through competitive grant process to implement AVID	Application: complete Jan 2011 (85) SOW: complete in the April- June 2011 quarter.

5	E2: Turn around OH's lowest-achieving schools	Begin implementation at the 18 funded AVID schools	Application: start Jan 2011 (85) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2011 quarter.
6	E2: Turn around OH's lowest-achieving schools	ONET provides TA to innovative models	Application: Dec 10 (85) SOW: complete in the July-Sept 2011 quarter.

Item #	Application criterion and specific project affected	Activity affected	Description of amendment
1	P2: Leverage STEM capacity	Through a granting process, equip 5 STEM schools to be training centers for schools around the state that want to bring STEM best practices to their building with priority to the persistently lowest achieving schools/districts implementing Innovative School models.	Application: start Jan 2011 (93) SOW: update in the April- June 2011 quarter.
2	P2: Leverage STEM capacity	Through a grant process, fund release time for the 2011-12, 2012-13 school years for STEM school leaders and lead teachers to mentor participants in the School Turnaround Leader Program and the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship	Application: complete June 2011 (93) SOW: complete in the July-Sep 2011 quarter.