



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Tom Corbett  
Office of the Governor  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

I am writing in response to Pennsylvania's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between July 30, 2012 and September 30, 2013, the State submitted an amendment request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and additional clarification as requested. 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. The Department provided grantees with a copy of the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document 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.

The following amendment is approved:

In the project area of (B)(3) Standards and Assessments, contract with Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (HU) to provide professional development to improve the effectiveness of educators who utilize online courses as significant portion of their classroom content. Pennsylvania originally planned to contract with Intermediate Units (IUs) to provide hybrid learning technical assistance, instructional coaching, and tools to educators and teacher preparation faculty. HU will now provide PDE with the following resources: 1) an online, self-paced course on hybrid learning available to all LEAs, IUs, and IHEs; 2) a classroom-based train-the-trainer course for PDE's Academic Recovery Liaisons (ARL) to deliver in-person training to teachers, administrators, and school staff; and 3) an online discussion forum to support teachers who utilize online courses in their teaching. HU uses the classroom-based course to train ARLs to provide professional development to the State's priority schools. IUs and LEAs beyond priority schools can proactively access the hybrid learning online course and discussion forum. There are no budget implications for this change.

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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.*

It is our understanding that the amendment will not result in a change of your State's goals and performance measures, nor will it substantially change your scope and objectives. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendment.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Pennsylvania's Race to the Top Program Officer, Julie Glasier, at 202-205-0940 or Julie.Glasier@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Carolyn Dumaresq, Acting Secretary of Education  
Angie Eifert, Race to the Top Director

