



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 6, 2014

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 December 9, 2013 and December 18, 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.

I conditionally approve the following amendments:

- For the (B)(3) "Common Math Tasks/Math Design Collaborative (MDC)" project, PDE missed its initial timeline to hire a Common Math Tasks Manager due to delays in the State's procurement process. The State now plans to hire the Common Math Tasks Manager in January 2014 and requests to shift the timeline for several dependent activities (e.g. designing of an IU training plan, post common math tasks to the SAS portal) so that both PDE and the Department can manage to these adjusted timelines moving forward. Due to these timeline delays, the State also requests to shift \$134,350 in personnel, fringe, travel, and equipment for this project from Year 1 to Year 2.

In addition, Pennsylvania will adjust their implementation strategy for this project. In spring 2014, the State will add an MDC pilot of the common math tasks with one IU region and associated LEAs, which in turn, will shift statewide implementation to SY 2014-2015. PDE reports a pilot will allow the State to gather feedback from the field in spring/summer 2014 to refine their statewide implementation strategy.

www.ed.gov

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Second, the State's original plans specified that the common math tasks would support secondary teachers. PDE will now focus on the middle school grades as the State reports these resources to be especially effective for student learning in these grades. Third, PDE will contract with a Common Math Tasks Manager instead of hiring personnel in order to better leverage funds for this project. This change will shift \$454,475 from personnel, fringe, travel, and equipment to the State's contractual budget.

This amendment approval is conditioned on the State submitting to the Department by May 2014 its plans for assessing feedback or other data from the MDC pilot to refine their statewide implementation of this project. This plan should include clear timelines, activities, and responsible parties. The State should also update its Scope of Work based on its statewide implementation strategy as needed.

It is our understanding that these amendments 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 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