



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 2, 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 July 25, 2014 and September 30, 2014 the State submitted budget documentation and an amendment request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendment requests 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 published the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed. 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 amendments to Pennsylvania's Race to the Top budget, as identified and explained in Appendix A.

It is our understanding that these amendments will not result in a change of your State's goals and performance measures, nor will they substantially change your scope and objectives. 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 your Race to the Top Program Officer, Karen Dorsey Hargrove at Karen.DorseyHargrove@ed.gov or 202-453-6695.

Sincerely,

//s//

Patrick Rooney
Acting Director, Program and Policy Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Dr. Carolyn Dumaesq, Acting Secretary of Education
Angie Eifert, Race to the Top Director

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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.

Appendix A

Grant project area affected	Budget Line Item	Description of Change
(B)(3)	Contractual: Pennsylvania Intermediate Units will provide support implementing Standards & Assessments (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) / Standards Aligned System), Common Tasks and On-Line Course Access.	Shift \$581,031 of unexpended funds from Year 2 to Year 3 (\$331,568) and Year 4 (\$248,811) in order to reflect the timeline for paying for services provided under contracts funded through this line item (e.g., to fund the Math Design Collaborative; STEM standards and assessments work).
(C)(2)	Contractual: Contract to modify existing PA Information Management System (PIMS) to allow LEA and PDE to access real-time data	Shift \$714,000 of unexpended funds from Year 2 to Year 3 (\$245,576) and Year 4 (\$447,198). The State reported that unexpended funds in Year 2 were the result of the use of outside funding to support this project. Additionally, shift \$21,226 from Year 2 to a separate contract within this subcriterion to partially fund a Data Strategy Project Manager. It is our understanding that the State is in the process of determining the best use of Year 4 funds for within this project area.
(C)(2)	Contractual: Contract to enhance the current PIMS to achieve a correlation between individual educators and the students they teach, including assessment data (Pennsylvania System of School Assessments, Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System, local assessments) to support implementation of the teacher evaluation system.	Shift a total of \$807,000 unexpended funds from Year 2 (\$582,500) and Year 4 (\$224,500) to Year 3. Increased costs during Year 3 and the expectation that a majority of this contract's billing will occur in Year 3 necessitates these shifts in funds. As per the State's approved Scope of Work, the State completed its activities for this project in Year 2.
(C)(2)	Contractual: Pennsylvania Intermediate Units will provide support developing and implementing the Educator Dashboard and School Report Card.	Shift \$483,584 of unexpended funds from Year 2 to Year 3 (\$416,133) and Year 4 (\$41,738) to support implementation of the educator dashboard and training on its use. Shift the remaining \$25,713 to support higher-than-anticipated contract costs paid for the Early Warning System in Year 3.

		<p>According to the State, Year 2 work under the Pennsylvania Intermediate Units line item was primarily funded through outside sources. Therefore, the State expended only a portion of the Race to the Top funds budgeted for Year 2. As a result, the use of the majority of the Race to the Top funds shifted to Year 3.</p>
(D)(5)	<p>Contractual: Pennsylvania Intermediate Units will provide support for continued training of educators on inter-rater reliability, use of rubrics, including teacher preparation programs, where the use of the system is continually evaluated.</p>	<p>Shift \$1,129,266 of unexpended funds from Year 2 (\$971,838) and Year 4 (\$157,428) to Year 3. According to the State, aside from delays in Year 1 as indicated in an April 2014 amendment, work has continued pursuant to the State's Scope of Work and is consistent with the State's implementation schedule for its educator evaluation systems. Funds are shifted to Year 3 to support work completed in Year 2 for which the State was billed in Year 3, and higher-than-anticipated contract costs in both Years 2 and 3.</p>