



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 7, 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 October 16, 2012 and February 26, 2013, the State submitted amendment requests 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. 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 am approving the following amendments:

- Shift funding for the following projects from sub-criteria (D)(2) to (D)(5). The State has chosen to realign its projects and move professional development activities in Section (D)(2) to (D)(5) as the purpose of this sub-criteria is to provide effective support to teachers and principals. The work will remain the same, the funding is simply being shifted to the (D)(5) project budget.
 - Shift \$100,000 for the contract to develop online professional development resources for teachers, principals and specialist regarding practices aligned to the Educator Evaluation System rubrics.
 - Shift \$100,000 for the project to provide podcasts, webinars, professional learning communities, and other means to ensure ongoing support to Intermediate Units (IUs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) throughout training and implementation of the new Educator Evaluation System.
 - Shift \$2,100,000 for the contract to develop inter-rater reliability tools for teachers, principals, and specialist for the Educator Evaluation System.
 - These shifts led to adjusting indirect cost for (D)(2) to \$14,500.00, and indirect cost for (D)(5) to \$43,500.00.

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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.

- Timeline shifts and extensions detailed in Appendix 1.
- Revisions to performance measures in (B)(3) detailed in Appendix 2. The performance measures have been revised to reflect the new timeline outlined in Appendix 1.

It is our understanding that the amendments will not substantially change your State's scope of work. 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 Pennsylvania's Race to the Top Program Officer, Lauren Scott, at 202-205-0940 or Lauren.Scott@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Ron Tomalis, Secretary of Education
Brian Laforme, Race to the Top Director

Appendix 1: Timeline amendments

Acknowledged Timeline Shifts - The Department acknowledges the following timeline delays:

Item #	Specific Project	Activity Affected	Original Completion Date	New Completion Date	Rationale for change
1	(A)(2): Appropriately staff the Race to the Top project	Develop job descriptions, advertise, secure space and equipment for Race to the Top project director, project assistant, and fiscal officer	March 2012	September 2012	Delayed due to staffing Race of the Top Director position.
2	(A)(2): Launch the Strategic Leadership Council	Create the Strategic Leadership Council Project Plan and identify and secure members; Conduct initial in-person session and develop appropriate protocols and expectations for Council members	February 2012-summer 2012	August 2012-February 2013	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.
4	(A)(2): Coordinate Intermediate Unit (IU) Activities	PDE partners with IUs to begin Race to the Top initiatives	March 2012	July 2012	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.
5	(B)(3): Common Math Tasks Project	Secure the services of a Common Math Tasks Manager	January 2013	June 2013	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.
6	(F)(2): Charter Schools	Define the goals and specific scope of responsibilities associated with coordinating charter school opportunities and the related existing	January 2012-October 2012	November 2012-June 2013	Delayed due to uncertainty of related legislative initiatives, exacerbated by delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.

Item #	Specific Project	Activity Affected	Original Completion Date	New Completion Date	Rationale for change
		personnel within PDE who would support this coordination effort; Develop materials, processes, and evaluative criteria to advance those goals; Establish and implement communication and technical assistance plans to achieve those goals			

Timeline Shifts - Due to the timeline delays listed above, the timelines for the following future activities have been shifted:

Item #	Specific Project	Activity Affected	Original Completion Date	New Completion Date	Rationale for change
1	(B)(3): Common Math Tasks Project	Secure and/or develop initial common math tasks and scoring rubrics	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.
2	(B)(3): Common Math Tasks Project	Ensure stakeholders understand the context of the math tasks within the SAS portal and in relationship to 1) CCSS and 2) college and career readiness	Spring 2013	Winter 2014/2015	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team and interdependencies with other delayed projects.
3	(B)(3): Common Math Tasks Project	Conduct train-the-trainer sessions through the IUs on the math tasks ; IUs provide technical assistance and instructional coaching in implementing the common math tasks	Winter 2012/2013	Winter 2014/2015	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team and interdependencies with other delayed projects.

Item #	Specific Project	Activity Affected	Original Completion Date	New Completion Date	Rationale for change
4	(B)(3): Common Math Tasks Project	Engage LEA and teacher preparation program educators in professional development opportunities regarding accessing and using the SAS-posted common math tasks, rubrics, and exemplars	Spring 2013	Winter 2014/2015	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team and interdependencies with other delayed projects.
5	(B)(3): Common Math Tasks Project	Post common tasks and associated lessons, rubrics, and student exemplars on the SAS portal	Fall 2013	Winter 2014/2015	Delayed due to delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team and interdependencies with other delayed projects.
6	(B)(3): Keystone Campus Review	Develop qualitative rubric to assess the alignment of Keystone Campus STEM courses to CCSS and college- and career-ready expectations	Fall 2012	April 2013	PDE recognizes that the original timeline proposed was not practical. This was exacerbated by the delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.
7	(B)(3): Keystone Campus Review	Assess all identified STEM courses using the qualitative rubric	Spring 2013	June 2013	PDE recognizes that the original timeline proposed was not practical. This was exacerbated by the delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.
8	(B)(3): Keystone Campus Review	Identify gaps in STEM course offerings and secure additional courses to create comprehensive STEM curriculum within Keystone Campus	Fall 2013	June 2015	PDE recognizes that the original timeline proposed was not practical. This was exacerbated by the delay in staffing the Race to the Top leadership team.

Timeline Extension - After considering its approach to the following activities, the State has made these annual activities to reflect the ongoing nature of the work:

Item #	Specific Project	Activity Affected	Original Completion Date	New Completion Date	Rationale for change
1	(F)(2): Charter Schools	Identify immediate priorities and longer-term goals of this coordination effort in light of pending legislation and existing policies and programs	March 2012	Annually	PDE recognized that its priorities may change depending on legislative action so it plans to evaluate every year based on action taken by the legislature.
2	(F)(2): Charter Schools	Establish more effective and efficient means of implementing and overseeing charters	Spring 2013	Annually	PDE recognized that its approach may change depending on legislative action so it plans to evaluate every year based on action taken by the legislature.

Amendment 2: Performance Measure Amendments

Revised (B)(3) targets are shown in bold italics.

(B)(3) Supporting the Transition to Enhanced Standards and High-Quality Assessments	Actual Data Baseline (Current school year or most recent)	End of SY 2011-2012	End of SY 2012-2013	End of SY 2013-2014	End of SY 2014-2015
Number of PDE-certified online courses <i>available</i> in STEM-related courses	0	0	10 <i>0</i>	20 <i>10</i>	30
Number of students in participating LEAs <i>enrolled</i> in PDE-certified STEM-related online courses	0	0	2,000 <i>0</i>	8,000 <i>2,000</i>	32,000
Percent of students in participating LEAs enrolled in PDE-certified STEM-related online courses that complete and pass PDE-certified STEM-related online courses	0	0	80% <i>0</i>	85% <i>80%</i>	90%