



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 27, 2012

The Honorable Lincoln Chafee
Office of the Governor
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196

Dear Governor Chafee:

I am writing with regards to the documentation that Rhode Island submitted on July 13, 2012, in response to the U.S. Department of Education's (the Department's) August 23, 2011, conditional approval of the State's request to amend timelines for the Evaluation System Design and Certification Data System Redesign project. The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) submitted recommendations for certification system redesign for the Board of Regents' consideration in early fall 2011. The Regents approved the draft recommendations for public comment, which occurred from September to October 2011. RIDE then revised the regulations based on the public comment period. The Regents voted to approve the revised regulations on November 3, 2011 with some regulations taking effect January 2012. The State has substantially complied with the revised timeline for the educator certification system as conditionally approved under the amendment. Based on the documentation the State submitted, I am pleased to fully approve this amendment to Rhode Island's Race to the Top plan.

As stated in the August 23, 2011 letter, it is important to note that while the amendment had short term consequences, it is our understanding that Rhode Island will still accomplish within the grant period all of the activities and deliverables articulated in its approved application. Further, Rhode Island has indicated that this amendment will neither result in a change in Rhode Island's Race to the Top student outcome goals nor substantially change the scope of work from its approved application. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendment. We look forward to completion of the actions associated with our August 23, 2011, conditional approval of the high-performing charter schools project.

I am confident that Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island's program officer, Monika Bandyopadhyay, at 202-260-2531 or monika.bandyopadhyay@ed.gov.

www.ed.gov

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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.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation

cc: Commissioner Deborah Gist
Mary-Beth Fafard
Carolyn Dias