



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 30, 2012

The Honorable Bill Haslam
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0001

Dear Governor Haslam:

I am writing with regards to the documentation that Tennessee submitted on August 15, 2012, in response to the conditions included in U.S. Department of Education's April 10, 2012, approval of Tennessee's request to amend the Achievement School District (ASD) project in its approved Race to the Top plan. In conformance with the condition, Tennessee submitted evidence of the following:

- (1) Passage and enactment of Senate Bill 2208/House Bill 2346 on May 10, 2012.
- (2) Establishment of 985 as a local educational agency (LEA) number for the ASD as well as evidence of a bank account for the LEA.
- (3) Establishment of a tax identification number and systems to manage employee payroll and benefits. Since the ASD is an entity of the State, the ASD indicated plans to use the Tennessee Department of Education's tax identification number and the State's payroll and benefits system.

Based on the documentation that Tennessee submitted, Tennessee has fulfilled the conditions specified.

Under the approved amendment, for school year (SY) 2012-2013, Tennessee will fully operate the ASD as an LEA in SY 2012-2013 with six schools and build capacity to scale up the ASD to add 12 additional schools in SY 2013-2014 and 17 more by SY 2014-2015 for a total of 35 schools in the ASD by SY 2014-2015.

As stated in my April 10, 2012, letter, it is important to note that the Department expects that Tennessee will fulfill the commitment it made in its Race to the Top application to establish an ASD to implement effective reforms in the State's lowest achieving schools.

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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.

Further, Tennessee has indicated that this amendment will neither result in a change in Tennessee's Race to the Top student outcome goals nor substantially change the Scope of Work from its approved application.

I am confident that Tennessee 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 Tennessee's Race to the Top Program Officer, Jessie Levin, at 202-453-6651 or Jessie.Levin@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

Cc: Kevin Huffman, Commissioner
Meghan Curran, Race to the Top Lead