



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 22, 2011

The Honorable Governor Quinn  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn,

Congratulations on receiving a Race to the Top Phase 3 award. I am pleased to provide the enclosed grant award notification (GAN) for your State's Race to the Top Phase 3 funds authorized under section 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and funded under Public Law 112-10, the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011. These funds are being awarded on the basis of your requested budget of \$42,818,707.

This award is subject to the attached grant conditions related to administering the grant, performance measures, monitoring sub-recipients, and maintaining adequate financial controls. As part of the conditions of receiving Race to the Top Phase 3 funding, Illinois may not draw down any grant funds until it submits its final approved application signed by the Governor or authorized designee and the Department's final budget review is complete (approximately January 30, 2012). At that point, Illinois may begin to draw down no more than 12.5 percent of the grant (\$5,352,338) until all of the required State and local educational agency (LEA) Scopes of Work, including participating LEA information, detailed timelines, and budgets referenced in condition B, are submitted to and approved by the Department. (Twelve and a half percent is equivalent to one year of the State's portion of the funding.) Funds may be drawn down only as they are needed, and their use must be consistent with the implementation of Illinois' Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones. The required Scopes of Work must be submitted no later than April 2, 2012.

For the project area of *Supporting the Transition to Enhanced Standards and High-Quality Assessments*, Illinois provides requirements for participating LEAs to support the State's goal of developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards and the Performance Evaluation Reform Act. This award is subject to the condition that these assessments will not be used for summative purposes, and thus will not violate the program requirement prohibiting the use of Race to the Top funds on summative assessments required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Notice Inviting Applications 75 FR 19498 and questions F-2 and F-3 in the *Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions* document found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/faq.pdf>).

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top Phase 3 award, please contact Rebecca Zazove at [Rebecca.zazove@ed.gov](mailto:Rebecca.zazove@ed.gov) or 202-260-1425. I look forward to working with you and your team over the next four years as you implement your bold education reform agenda.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Superintendent Koch  
Darren Reisberg

Enclosure: Grant Award Notification with Attachments