



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 16, 2012

The Honorable John Hickenlooper  
Office of the Governor  
136 State Capitol Building  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

I would like to thank Commissioner Robert Hammond and the staff at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for their hard work and collaboration with us as your State begins to implement its Race to the Top grant. On April 2, 2012, we received the final scopes of work for all of Colorado's participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and a detailed scope of work for Colorado's entire project that is consistent with its approved application. We approve the State's scope of work and the format of the LEA scopes of work; the State and LEA scopes of work include specific goals, activities, timeline, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures.

Through our conversations with the CDE team, we understand that the State has conditionally approved the LEA scopes of work for years 1 and 2 of the grant. The State will require the LEAs to refine their work plans for years 3 and 4 of the grant before final approval. The State will support the LEAs to refine the work plans through the LEA monitoring process. We support your plan to continue to work with LEAs as they revise their scopes of work in the future as this is consistent with our belief that the State's and LEAs' scopes of work are living documents that may be subject to additional review and revision where appropriate over time.

On December 22, 2011, Colorado received a grant of \$17,946,236 with the condition that the State draw down no more than 12.5 percent of the grant prior to approval of the State's scope of work. I am pleased to notify you that the remaining balance of the award is now available to the State. Funds may be drawn down only as they are needed, and their use must be consistent with the implementation of Colorado's Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones.

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Cindy Savage at [cindy.savage@ed.gov](mailto:cindy.savage@ed.gov) or 202-453-5998.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen, Director, Policy and Program  
Implementation

Cc: Robert Hammond  
Jill Hawley  
Tricia Miller