



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 2, 2011

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 316
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Gray:

I would like to thank Hosanna Mahaley and the staff at the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) for their hard work and collaboration with us as your state begins to implement its Race to the Top grant. On November 22, 2010, we received scopes of work for all of the District of Columbia's participating local educational agencies (LEAs) and a detailed scope of work for OSSE's entire project that is consistent with its approved application. We approve the state's scope of work (OSSE's "Detailed Implementation Plan") and the format of the LEA scopes of work; the state and LEA scopes of work include specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures.

Through our conversations with the OSSE team, we understand that OSSE has conditionally approved the year 1 scopes of work and will only allow LEAs to submit for reimbursement costs found in the year 1 budget until it approves years 2-4. LEAs will be required to submit progress reports beginning in spring (March or April) 2011. OSSE will evaluate each LEA's progress before determining whether to approve the LEA's plan for years 2-4 or to require revisions to the existing scope of work in order to more closely monitor its progress. After review by the U.S. Department of Education and final approval by the District of Columbia, LEAs will have the ability to begin submitting reimbursements for the amount of the full budget. We support your plan to continue to work with LEAs as they revise their scopes of works 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 September 24, 2010, the District of Columbia received a grant of \$74,998,962 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

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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 the District of Columbia's Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones. We believe that the state's implementation plan will enable it to continue making great strides to eliminate the achievement gap, improve the quality of the teacher workforce, and improve graduation rates.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Rachel Vessey at rachel.vessey@ed.gov or 202-453-5545.

Sincerely,

//s//

Joseph C. Conaty
Interim Director, Race to the Top

cc:
Hosanna Mahaley
Richard Pohlman