



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Nathan Deal  
Office of the Governor  
Georgia State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal,

I would like to thank Superintendent Barge and all the staff at the Georgia Department of Education for their hard work and collaboration with us as you begin to implement your Race to the Top grant. The U.S Department of Education (Department) views the scopes of work as an opportunity for States to think critically about implementation of the reforms outlined in their approved applications. Due to the leadership transition in Georgia, the Department recognizes that the State requires additional time to finalize its State scope of work. Therefore, the Department and Georgia have agreed that the State will submit a revised State scope of work that includes the Grantee's specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures related to the State's 50 percent share of the grant funds in the coming weeks.

On November 22, 2010, we received scopes of work for 25 participating local educational agencies (LEAs). In addition, one LEA chose to join the reform efforts within the 90 day allowable window and submitted a scope of work for a total of 26 participating LEAs. We understand that the LEA scope of work is one piece of a comprehensive package demonstrating a participating LEA's commitment to Georgia's Race to the Top reform agenda. All participating districts have signed a Memorandum of Agreement outlining their full commitment to Georgia's Race to the Top plan. Additionally, LEAs submitted annual budget documentation that complements the total amounts provided in the scopes of work. We approve the format of the LEA scopes of work as the State has demonstrated that together these three documents contain specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measure.

The Department also recognizes that the Georgia Department of Education will continue to work with its participating districts through a budget negotiation process that will occur annually through the consolidated application procedure. Each year, all participating LEAs will be required to submit detailed budget information that the Georgia Race to the Top Implementation Director will approve by before funds are released for that fiscal year. This process will allow the

[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.*

Georgia Department of Education to facilitate an efficient and effective transfer of planning and budget information from LEAs. The Department supports this annual revision process and will work closely with the Georgia Department of Education to determine how we can best support your efforts. The State's plans are consistent with our view that the scopes of work are living documents that can be subject to additional review and revision where appropriate over time.

Therefore, because the State has demonstrated that the LEA scopes of work include all of the required elements, the Georgia Department of Education may continue to draw down funds within the available 12.5 percent of the grant for state-level activities, as well as on behalf of the participating LEAs.

Upon approval of the State scope of work, Georgia will be given access to the remaining award balance.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Melissa Siry at [Melissa.Siry@ed.gov](mailto:Melissa.Siry@ed.gov) or (202) 260-0926.

Sincerely,

//s//

Joseph C. Conaty

Interim Director, Race to the Top Program

cc: Superintendent John Barge

Teresa MacCartney