



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Jindal:

I would like to thank Superintendent White and the staff at the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) for their hard work and collaboration with us as your State begins to implement its Race to the Top grant. Between April 2, 2012 and February 13, 2013, we received the final scopes of work for all of Louisiana's participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and a scope of work for Louisiana's projects that is now 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 LDOE team, we understand that the State has approved the LEA scopes of work for year 2 of the grant. The State will require the LEAs to refine their scopes of work for years 3 and 4 of the grant before final approval. The State will support the LEAs to refine the scopes of work s through the LEA monitoring process and annual scope of work implementation performance reviews. 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, Louisiana received a grant of \$17,442,972 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 Louisiana's Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones.

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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.

It is the Department's understanding that prior to year 3 of the grant period, the State will provide an updated scope of work for years 3 and 4 to include more detailed information about planned project activities in that time period.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Karen Dorsey at Karen.dorsey@ed.gov or 202-453-6695.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Superintendent John White
Sheila Guidry