



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 3, 2011

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Office of the Governor  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley,

I would like to thank Superintendent Grasmick and all the staff at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) 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.

On November 22, 2010, we received scopes of work for the 22 participating local educational agencies (LEAs) identified in Maryland's approved application. Through our conversations with Maryland's Race to the Top Team, we understand that the State has received from all participating LEAs a four-year plan and a four-year budget for Race to the Top. The State has approved all LEA plans for the first year, and therefore will only provide one year of the section 14006(c) subgrant to participating LEAs. For years 2 - 4, Maryland intends to integrate the scope of work approval process into the State's master planning process. LEAs will submit Master Plans annually to the State on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This process will allow MSDE 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 MSDE 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.

Because the State has demonstrated that the LEA scopes of work include all of the required elements, MSDE 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, Maryland will be given access to the remaining award balance.

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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 Rina Dhalla at [rina.dhalla@ed.gov](mailto:rina.dhalla@ed.gov) or (202) 453 - 5546.

Sincerely,

//s//

Joseph C. Conaty, Ph.D.  
Interim Director, Race to the Top Program

cc: Nancy Grasmick  
James V. Foran