



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 29, 2012

The Honorable Chris Christie  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

I would like to thank Acting Commissioner Cerf and the staff at the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) for their hard work and collaboration with us as your State begins to implement its Race to the Top grant. On June 5, 2012, we received the final scopes of work for all of New Jersey's participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and a detailed scope of work for New Jersey's projects 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 NJ DOE team, we understand that the State has conditionally approved the LEA scopes of work and will grant final approval once the State scope of work is approved. The State has required the LEAs to provide detailed work plans for Years 2-4 of the grant as part of the conditional approval process and has supported them in refining their work plans. We support this plan to continue to work with LEAs as they finalize their scopes of work, 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, New Jersey received a grant of \$37,847,648 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 New Jersey's Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones.

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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 Renee Faulkner at [Renee.Faulkner@ed.gov](mailto:Renee.Faulkner@ed.gov) or 202-205-4012.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen  
Director, Policy and Program Implementation

Cc: Acting Commissioner Chris Cerf  
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