



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 31, 2011

The Honorable Bev Perdue
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Perdue:

I would like to thank you and all your colleagues at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) for your hard work and collaboration with us as you begin to implement your Race to the Top grant. On November 22, 2010, we received scopes of work for North Carolina's participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and a detailed scope of work for North Carolina's entire project that is consistent with its approved proposal. We approve the State scope of work 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 North Carolina, we understand that the State has approved an LEA scope of work if it meets all of the requirements set forth in "NC Race to the Top (RttT) LEA/Charter Detailed Scope of Work (DSW): Instructions for Completing & Submitting the Template" available on the "school district resources" page on the NC DPI's Race to the Top webpage (available at: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/rttt/district/>) and further reiterated through regional meetings and webinars. We also understand that North Carolina is taking a multi-level approach to working with participating LEAs to refine their local scopes of work over time.

During the fall 2010 scope of work submission process, the State reaffirmed to each participating LEA its legally binding commitment (as initially set forth in its Memorandum of Understanding) to carry out all "required" activities in the scope of work. Each LEA will be expected to address how it will meet each of these commitments in what the State refers to as a "complete" local scope by September 1, 2011; however, LEAs were not required to show how they would meet each of these commitments by the November 8, 2010 scope of work submission date. Given the timeframe available for LEAs to complete their scopes of work, for November 8, the State's approval process required each LEA (at minimum) to account for the plans and budgets for activities funded through Race to the Top funds. We support North

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Carolina's plan to continue to work with its participating LEAs on their scopes of work, and in particular, to ensure they serve as useful tools to implement local plans aligned to the State's Race to the Top goals in a manner that is cohesively integrated with other State and local reform initiatives.

On September 24, 2010, North Carolina received a grant of \$399,465,769 with the condition that the State draws 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 to meet immediate obligation needs, and their use must be consistent with the implementation of North Carolina's Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones.

As we have discussed with you, we see both the State's and LEAs' scopes of work as living documents that may be subject to additional review and revision where appropriate over time.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Jessie Levin at Jessie.Levin@ed.gov or 202-453-6651.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Dr. June Atkinson, State Superintendent, Public Instruction
Dr. William Harrison, Chairman, North Carolina State Board of Education
Adam Levinson, Director, Policy and Strategic Planning