



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 28, 2011

The Honorable John R. Kasich
Office of the Governor
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Oh 43215-6108

Dear Governor Kasich:

I want to thank Superintendent Deborah S. Delisle and the staff at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for their hard work and collaboration with us as your state begins to implement its Race to the Top grant. On November 22, 2010, we received final scopes of work for all of Ohio's participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and a detailed scope of work for Ohio's entire project 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, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures.

Through our conversations with you, we understand that the state has "approved" only those scopes of work in which an LEA has clearly demonstrated that it has developed the goals, performance measures, and activities necessary to fulfill the required commitments within each assurance area for all four years of the grant. The state "approved with conditions" those scopes of work in which an LEA has sufficient evidence that it had developed the goals, performance measures, and activities required for year one of the grant, but did not provide sufficient evidence for project years two through four. We understand that the state will work with each of those LEAs to develop its scope of work to include all the required elements necessary for unconditional approval for the subsequent years.

Further, we understand that regardless of approval status, all participating LEAs must submit year 1 budget allocations by category, and cannot draw down any funds until ODE approves the submission. ODE will determine if the level of budget detail provided for year 1 is

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sufficient to ensure financial oversight and accountability. If ODE determines the information provided was not sufficient, it will require more detail for subsequent years of Race to the Top funding.

We support your plan to require participating LEAs to obtain approval of their budget information prior to drawing down funds, as well as your plan to continue to work with LEAs that were conditionally approved as they revise their scopes of works for years 2 through 4.

On September 24, 2010, Ohio received a grant of \$400,000,000 with the condition that the state draw down no more than 12.5 percent of the grant prior to approval of the state's of 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 Ohio'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 Rebecca Zazove at rebecca.zazove@ed.gov or 202-260-1425.

Sincerely,

//s//

Joseph C. Conaty
Interim Director, Race to the Top

cc: Deborah Delisle
Dr. Marilyn Troyer
Michael Sawyers