



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

April 8, 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.

On November 22, 2010, we received final scopes of work for all of Maryland's participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and a detailed scope of work for MSDE's entire project that is consistent with its approved application. We approve the state's scope of work and the format of 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.

The state scope of work includes quarterly milestones for year 1 and key milestones for years 2, 3 and 4. In early July 2011, Maryland will submit a revised scope of work to the Department that details quarterly milestones for Year 2. In January 2012, Maryland will submit a revised scope of work to the Department that details quarterly milestones for Years 3 and 4.

Through our conversations with Maryland's Race to the Top Team, we also 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 15th. 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.

On September 24, 2010, Maryland received a grant of \$249,999,182 with the condition that the state draws down no more than 12.5 percent of the grant at that time. 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 Maryland's Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones. We believe that the state's implementation

plan will enable it to continue making great strides to eliminate the achievement gap, improve the quality of the teacher workforce, and improve graduation rates.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Rina Dhalla at rina.dhalla@ed.gov or 202-453-5546.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen
Deputy Director, Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Nancy Grasmick
James V. Foran