



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

April 8, 2011

The Honorable Lincoln Chafee  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196

Dear Governor Chafee:

I would like to thank Commissioner Gist and the staff at the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) 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 Rhode Island's participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and on March 16 and April 1 we received budgets for Rhode Island's participating LEAs. On April 1, we received a revised version of a detailed scope of work for Rhode Island's entire project that is consistent with its approved application and approved amendments. We approve the State scope of work and the format of the LEA scopes of work; they include specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures.

We understand that the state has approved an LEA scope of work if it meets the requirements set forth in RIDE's October 1, 2010 "LEA Scope of Work and Partnership Agreement" document. The requirements for an LEA scope of work include district goals and performance measures, a readiness assessment, and an engagement strategy. The requirements also include the following for each of the Systems of Support (Standards and Curriculum, Instructional Improvement Systems, Educator Effectiveness, Human Capital Development, and, as relevant, School Transformation and Innovation): key personnel, timelines for technical tasks (i.e. activities), and an analysis of key challenges to implementation. Further, we understand that in February and March 2011, each LEA submitted a detailed budget for each of the support systems for years one and two. We understand that LEAs will submit budget proposals for years three and four for RIDE's review and approval in spring 2013 and spring 2014, respectively. Also, we understand that each LEA's use of funds will be reviewed quarterly, and all modifications will be documented using the Accelegrants system. Additionally, we understand that starting in year 2, RIDE will complete a review of the LEA scopes of work at least annually, and will include any modifications as addendums to the original documents.

On September 24, 2010, Rhode Island received a grant of \$75,000,000 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 Rhode Island'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, and expect that RIDE will submit revised documents to the Department on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Bridget Kelly at [bridget.kelly@ed.gov](mailto:bridget.kelly@ed.gov) or 202-453-5534.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Whalen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ann Whalen

Deputy Director, Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Commissioner Gist  
Mary-Beth Fafard  
Carolyn Dias