



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



August 3, 2016

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SW, Suite 754, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Ms. Jacobs:

This letter is in response to Georgia's request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant projects. The U.S. Departments of Education and Health & Human Services (Departments) approved Georgia's grant projects and scope of work on May 29, 2014. On June 2, 2016, Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) submitted an amendment request, to redistribute unspent Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and FY 2015 grant funds within all twelve projects, as well as transferring funds across three projects resulting in a fiduciary shift greater than \$500,000.

As you are aware, the Departments have the authority to approve amendments provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On July 18, 2012, the Departments sent a document to Project Directors describing the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Departments have applied the conditions noted in that document and compared it with RTT-ELC program requirements and conditions.

Georgia is making significant progress completing its scope of work across its twelve projects in the RTT-ELC grant. The State has carefully assessed its expenditures and anticipated resource needs, and determined that in order for the State to accomplish its goals and objectives this budget amendment is needed. To complete Georgia's scope of work by the end of the grant period, December 2017, the State requests RTT-ELC grant funds to be shifted within the State's approved budget as outlined below.

The State has the Departments' approval to move FY 2014 unspent funds totaling \$6,147,536 and FY 2015 unspent funds totaling \$6,167,420 into outlying budget periods, for a total of \$12,314,956. Georgia asked to transfer unspent funds from both FY 2014 and 2015, totaling \$1,784,101, out of Project 3 into: Project 2—Early Education Empowerment Zones which will receive \$100,000 from the transferred funds to support professional development around the E³Zs approach; Project 10--Supporting Early Childhood Educators will receive \$1,184,101 of transferred Project 3 funds to support stipends to educators in increasing their credentials; and Project 11—Kindergarten Entry Assessment will receive \$500,000 to support communication for teachers and parents around Kindergarten readiness. The chart below describes which fiscal year and the amount of unspent FY 2014 and FY 2015 funds the State intends to move within their twelve projects to outlying budget periods.

All twelve projects will move unspent FY 2014 and FY 2015 funds within each project as for use in FY 2016 and FY 2017 as delineated below:

- Project 1 will shift \$52,866 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$50,953 into FY17.
- Project 2 will shift \$55,723 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$1,226,828 into FY 17.
- Project 3 will shift \$2,203,497 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$3,585,081 into FY17.
- Project 4 will shift \$51,224 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$606,698 into FY17.
- Project 5 will shift \$254,478 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$279,460 into FY17.
- Project 6 will shift \$5,825 of unspent funds into FY2016 and \$9,919 into FY17.

Project 7 will shift \$6,077 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$25,513 into FY17.
Project 8 will shift \$49,561 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$1,103,812 into FY17.
Project 9 will shift \$28,146 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$6,201,579 FY17.
Project 10 will shift \$511,177 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$650,019 into FY2017.
Project 11 will shift \$200,000 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$865,876 FY17.
Project 12 will shift \$239,887 of unspent funds into FY16 and \$633,935 into FY17.

We understand that this amendment request will not impact Georgia's overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure Georgia can continue to make progress on its RTT-ELC scope of work activities.

Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment request and our approval. All budget changes are recorded in the GRADS 360 system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that Georgia will continue its comprehensive efforts towards building successful state systems of early learning. If you need any assistance regarding RTT-ELC, please do not hesitate to contact your U.S. Department of Education Project Officer, Miriam Lund, at (202) 401-2871 or Miriam.Lund@ed.gov or your U.S. Department of Health and Human Services co-project officer Ngozi Lawal, at (202) 260-5943 or Ngozi.Lawal@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Libby Doggett
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Early Learning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

/s/

Linda K. Smith
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood
Development
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services