



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



December 20, 2013

Commissioner Tom Weber
Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
51 Sleeper Street
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Commissioner Weber:

This letter is in response to Massachusetts' request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) overall project budget by reallocating \$8,783,691.39 in unspent funds from year 1 to years 2, 3 and 4 of the grant period. In general, unspent funds from year 1 were a result of delays in staff hiring and project management, late invoicing from subcontractors and, in some cases, lower project costs than originally anticipated. In addition to year 1 delays, increased funding was needed in one project as a result of changes in the indirect cost rate structure and hiring of new project staff. The State submitted an amendment request to the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services (the Departments) on October 2, 2013. 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.

The following amendment request is approved, as described below:

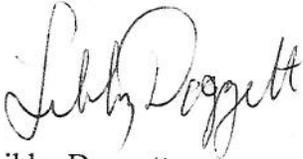
- A reallocation of \$1,081,710.66 to **Project 1: Grants Management** using unspent funds from Projects 3,4,5,6 and 8. This reallocation is needed due to changes in the State's indirect cost rate structure and new project management staff hires.
- A reallocation of \$2,999,684.16 (\$2,797,580.16 from within the Project, \$202,104 from Project 8) to **Project 2: Quality Rating and Improvement System** - this reallocation moves unspent funds to years 2 and 3.
- A reallocation of \$674,283.38 within **Project 3: Measuring Growth Through the MA Early Learning Development Assessment System** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to year 2.
- A reallocation of \$592,967.06 in unspent funds within **Project 4: Family Engagement with Evidence Based Practice** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to years 2 and 3.
- A reallocation of \$1,254,506 in unspent funds within **Project 5: Sustaining Program Effects in the Early Elementary Grades** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to years 2 and 3.
- A reallocation of \$314,268.07 in unspent funds within **Project 6: Standards Validation and Alignment** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to year 2.
- A reallocation of \$1,189,376.04 in unspent funds (\$1,050,778.36 from within the Project, \$138,597.68 from Projects 8 and 9) to **Project 7: Interagency Partnerships** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to years 2, 3 and 4.

- A reallocation of \$1,047,887.94 in unspent funds within **Project 8: Ensuring Competency Through Workforce Knowledge, Skills and Practice-Based Support** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to years 2 and 3.
- A reallocation of \$243,676.50 in unspent funds within **Project 9: Measuring Growth by Developing a Common Measure for Kindergarten Entry Assessment** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to year 2.
- A reallocation of \$394,021.94 within **Project 10: Early Childhood Information System** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to years 2, 3 and 4.
- A reallocation of \$31,050.54 within **Project 11: Pre-K to Three Alignment for Educational Success: Communication** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to year 2.
- A reallocation of \$338,860.68 (\$328,768.34 from within the Project, \$10,092.34 from Projects 8, 9 and 10) to **Project 12: Pre-K to Three Alignment for Education Success: Content Based Media** – this reallocation moves unspent funds to years 2 and 4.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, participation rates, and grant activities, nor will delays in spending funds substantially change the scope of work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment request.

We are confident that Massachusetts 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 Project Officer, Davida McDonald, at (202) 205-8370 or davida.mcdonald@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



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



Linda K. Smith
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Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services