



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



April 7, 2015

Ms. Liz Belsito, Project Director
Massachusetts Department of Early Learning and Care
51 Sleeper Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Belsito:

This letter is in response to Massachusetts' request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant projects. The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Departments) approved Massachusetts' budget on March 31, 2015. On March 9, 2015, the Massachusetts Department of Early Learning and Care submitted an amendment request, whereby it proposed overall adjustments to its budget based on expenditures and cost savings in its third grant year.

Massachusetts has requested to reallocate unspent funds from Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12 to support an upgrade to existing information technology (IT) systems (Project 10). These delays will not result in changes to approved activities or to the scope and objectives of the grant. The specific changes in each year and category are detailed in the State's request.

Projects receiving additional funds are as follows:

Project 10 (Implementing Early Childhood Information System -- ECIS): This project will receive \$1,878,275 in unspent funds from Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12. Funds will be used in the Contractual category to support an outside contractor to upgrade the State's existing information technology (IT) systems.

Specifically, these funds will provide the ability to:

- submit background record check consent forms online by providers and educators;
- track, manage, and more thoroughly automate safety data on individual educators and their provider organizations;
- streamline and generate correspondence to educators and providers related to safety, quality and workforce initiatives;
- utilize mobile technology to access licensing, workforce and provider data;
- enable data access to various user groups including staff, providers, and parents/guardians;
- consolidate data warehouses that store educator and provider data;
- develop and manage corresponding dashboards and reports; and
- interface with other Commonwealth agencies for data sharing and process integration.

These upgrades to the IT infrastructure will allow the Commonwealth to effectively use ECIS by gathering more high quality data to inform policy decisions. The activities outlined will also:

- promote health and safety for children;
- streamline day to day operations through the use of mobile technology;
- provide business intelligence for trend analysis, forecasting and identifying opportunities for efficiency gain; and
- ensure alignment of polices to technical applications.

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

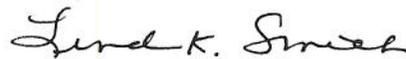
Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment request and our approval. All budget changes are recorded in the GRADS 360 system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that 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, Anne Karasek, at (202) 245-6108 or Anne.Karasek@ed.gov or your co-project officer Amy Spates, at 617-565-3772 or Amy.Spates@acf.hhs.gov .

Sincerely,



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



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

Cc: Tammy Proctor
Deborah Spitz