UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

November 18, 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) budget for Project 3, Measuring Growth through the MA Early Learning and Development System/MELD. The State submitted an amendment request to the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services (the Departments) on August 16, 2013. As you are aware, the Departments have the authority to approve amendments to your RTT-ELC plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On July 18, 2012, the Departments sent a "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to RTT-ELC Project Directors indicating 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.

The following amendment request is approved, as described below:

- The unspent funds ($23,620) from grant year 2 in Project 3.2 will be transferred to Project 3.8 for professional development. There are sufficient funds remaining in Project 3.2 to achieve the goals of the project for the duration of the RTT-ELC grant period.
- The unspent funds ($55,618) from grant year 2 in Project 3.3 will be transferred to Project 3.8 for professional development. There are sufficient funds remaining in Project 3.3 to achieve the goals of the project for the duration of the RTT-ELC grant period.
- For Project 3.4, the unspent funds ($408,502) from grant year 2 will be transferred to Project 3.8. Additionally, money budgeted for grant years 3 and 4 ($165,000 per year) will be reallocated to Project 3.8. There are sufficient funds remaining in Project 3.4 to achieve the goals of the project for the duration of the RTT-ELC grant period.
- For Project 3.6, the unspent funds ($127,404) from grant year 2 will be reallocated to Project 3.8. The goals of Project 3.6 have been reached; this frees up the remaining funds in this project for re-allocation.

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