



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



July 24, 2015

Ms. Liz Belsito, Project Director
Office of the Governor
51 Sleeper Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Belsito:

This letter is in response to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. On July 1, 2015, the Commonwealth requested that two projects and eight activities of its 12 approved projects (Grants Management Budget, Quality Rating and Improvement System Program Supports, Measuring Growth Through the Massachusetts Early Learning Development Assessment System, Standards Validation and Alignment, Ensuring Competency through Workforce Knowledge, Skills and Practice-Based Support and Early Childhood Information System) be granted a 12 month no-cost extension.

As you are aware, the Departments have the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On March 3, 2015, the Departments issued "Amendment Requests with No-Cost Extension Guidance and Principles" indicating the process by which amendments containing requests to provide additional time for a grantee to accomplish the reform goals and deliverables it committed to in its RTT-ELC application and approved Scope of Work 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. In reviewing this request, project officers considered the State's explanation and plan for how the work will be sustained (or, if appropriate, completed) after the timeframe of the no-cost extension.

Based on the documentation submitted, Massachusetts has fulfilled the conditions specified. Under the approved amendment, the Commonwealth's Grants Management, one specific activity in TQRIS and Early Childhood Information System will be extended through December 31, 2016. In addition, eight activities in four Projects will be extended through June 30, 2016.

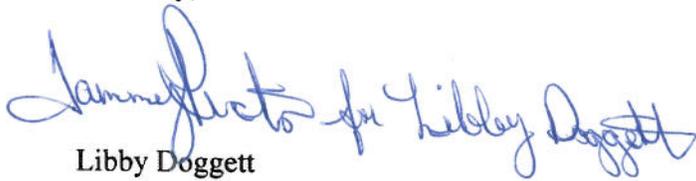
The following no-cost extension amendment for Projects 1 and 10 and activities found in Projects 2, 3, 6, and 8 are approved, as described below:

- Project 1: Grants Management – Three grant administration positions to ensure all reporting requirements, grant oversight and monitoring continue to maintain proper oversight to ensure the capacity to manage the grant through the end of the no cost extension. In addition, eight policy and project staff will be extended through June of 2016 to allow the Commonwealth to continue

It is our understanding that this amendment request will not change the Commonwealth's 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 we expect grantees with no-cost extensions to liquidate all funds by March 31, 2017, given that by law all RTT-ELC funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2017. This letter will be posted to ED's website as a record of the amendments.

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 (206) 615-2609 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 Services