



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



June 9, 2015

Rolf Grafwallner, Ph.D.
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Childhood Development, 10th Floor
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Grafwallner 

This letter is in response to Maryland's 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 Maryland's grant projects and scope of work on November 26, 2012. On May 1, 2015, the Maryland State Department of Education submitted an amendment request, based on the Annual Performance Report submitted on February 26, 2015, whereby it proposes overall adjustments to its budget based on expenditures in its third grant year.

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.

The Maryland State Department of Education has requested to move a total of \$20,881,379 in unspent funds to Year 4, without any changes to activities. None of the changes proposed in this amendment change the scope or objectives of the grant.

Project 1 (Local Early Childhood Councils): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$40,399 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 2 (Maryland EXCELS (Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System)): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$9,015,865 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 3 (Quality Capacity Building): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$3,787,279 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 4 (Promoting the Use of Statewide, Early Learning and Development Standards): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$357,346 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 5 (Professional Development to Promote MD's Early Learning and Development Outcomes for Children): Project 5 no longer requires funding. MD is requesting to move all

funds from this program to Project 6. In earlier years of the grant, this project provided professional development to support delivery of the Maryland Model of School Readiness (MMSR) – an assessment that has now been replaced with Maryland’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (developed in Project 6 and implemented Statewide in the 2014-2015 school year).

Project 6 (Comprehensive Assessment Project (in collaboration with Ohio)): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$2,064,694 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 7 (Child Innovations): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$2,341,942 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 8 (Engaging and Supporting Families): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$669,612 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 9 (Workforce and Leadership Development): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$519,584 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 10 (Building/Enhancing an Early Learning Data System): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$1,407,894 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

Project 11 (Overall Grants Management): MD is requesting approval to carry forward a total of \$676,762 from Year 3 to Year 4, without any changes to activities.

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

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 GRADS360° system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that Maryland 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 Officers Katie Chase, at (202) 205-0266 or Katie.Chase@ed.gov or Beverly Wellons, at (215) 861-4020 or Beverly.Wellons@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
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Services