



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



September 20, 2013

Rolf Grafwallner
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Childhood Development
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street, 10th Floor
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 project. Between April 26, 2013 and June 13, 2013 the State submitted amendment requests and supporting information to the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Departments). 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 to the State's budget is approved, as described below:

- In Project 3 ("*Quality Capacity Building*"), Maryland will redirect \$1,050,000 from Year 1 of the RTT-ELC grant to support two (2) additional Judy Centers. Maryland's RTT-ELC 2011 proposal was written and approved to support three (3) satellite Judy Center sites in high-need areas of the State. In implementing the RTT-ELC grant, Maryland has found Judy Centers to have proven ability to narrow the school readiness gap, a main goal of the State's RTT-ELC grant. Therefore, the State wants to extend the Centers' reach by bringing the number of RTT-ELC-supported Judy Center sites to five (5).

To do so, the State will add \$350,000 per year in the three remaining years of the RTT-ELC grant to support two (2) additional satellite Judy Center sites. These funds will be redirected from unspent funds from Year 1 of Projects 2 and 10:

- In Project 2 ("*Maryland EXCELS*"), slower-than-expected processes for hiring personnel and issuing RFPs for contracts lead to savings of \$523,123. Most of these funds will be moved to Project 3. No changes have been made to grant activities in Project 2.

- In Project 10 (“*Early Learning Data System*”), Maryland realized savings by revamping the point-of-service attendance system to be an online system that does not require additional equipment, which reduced the vendor contract by \$665,016. Most of these funds will be moved to Project 3. No changes have been made to the grant activities in Project 10.

The two new Judy Centers will also be supported by a match from a private foundation; the Maryland State Department of Education received assurance through a Memoranda of Understanding with Baltimore City and a private foundation that the centers will be sustained beyond the grant period.

- In Project 6 (“*Comprehensive Assessment System*”), Maryland will move \$579,071 that was unspent mainly due to hiring delays into an existing contract to support development of interactive touch screen technology that will allow the State to deliver assessments to young children.
- In all projects, Maryland will update the State budget for Year 1 and shift of unspent funds to Years 2, 3 and 4 of the grant. The State will reallocate \$4,711,847 unspent mainly due to first year start-up delays. In the main, the State is moving funds forward within the same projects and within the same budget categories (instances in which Maryland requested moving funds between categories or projects are listed in the bullets below). No changes have been made to grant activities.

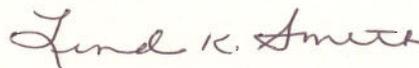
It is the Departments’ understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your State’s performance measures and outcome, nor will it substantially change the scope of work.

Please note that this letter will be posted on the U.S. Department of Education’s website as a record of the amendments. If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding RTT-ELC, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Early Learning program officer for Maryland, Katie Chase, at 202/205-0266 or katie.chase@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Libby Doggett
Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of
Policy and 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

Cc: Governor Martin O’Malley
Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools