



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



Ellen Wolock, Director
Division of Early Childhood Education
New Jersey Department of Education
PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625

January 16, 2015

Dear Dr. Wolock

This letter is in response to New Jersey'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 New Jersey's grant projects and scope of work, including supplemental funds, on July 16, 2014. On January 16, 2015, the New Jersey Department of Education submitted an amendment request, whereby it proposes overall adjustments to its budget based on expenditures and cost savings 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. The Departments have provided 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.

Within Project 8, Data Systems, the State initially budgeted \$750,000 to upgrade the childcare licensing database housed within the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF). This amendment will transfer that entire amount from Year One to Year Three, in order to provide more time to thoroughly evaluate whether to purchase a new system or upgrade the existing system. The additional time will allow for the completion of a review of new product demonstrations, at which time DCF and New Jersey's Office of Information Technology will determine which solution best meets the needs of the agency.

These funds will remain in the Contractual line and will be used to purchase a new system, to upgrade the existing software, and/or for staff augmentation. The State anticipates that the amount that will be moved to Year Three (\$750,000) is sufficient to complete the project regardless of which approach is chosen.

We understand that this amendment request will not impact New Jersey's overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure New Jersey 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 New Jersey 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, Deborah Spitz, at (202) 260-3793 or Deborah.Spitz@ed.gov or your co-project officer Richard Gonzales, at (202) 401-5138 or Richard.Gonzales@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
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Service