



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



August 10, 2015

Megan Irwin
Early Learning Systems Director
Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division
775 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Irwin,

This letter is in response to Oregon'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 Oregon's grant projects and scope of work, including supplemental funds, in January 2014. On June 16, 2015, the Oregon Early Learning Division submitted an amendment request, whereby it proposes adjustments to its budget to move unspent funds from 2014 into 2015.

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.

Oregon has requested to reallocate unspent funds in its Year 2 budget and make several other necessary adjustments. These amendments do not impact Oregon's overall RTT-ELC goals or performance measures. The specific amounts changing in each year and category are detailed in the State's request.

In this amendment, adjustments have been made to reflect the ongoing work of the grant. Across all projects, funds for indirect costs are being increased due to a change in the approved indirect cost rate.

The following amendment request is approved, as described below:

Project 1 (Grant Management): Oregon is requesting an increase to this project of \$40,809. Within the project, increases to personnel and fringe benefits (in the amount of \$148,179) reflect current staff needs. The categories of travel, equipment, and contractual are decreased to adjust for increased personnel and indirect cost expenses.

Project 3 (Increase Participation of ELDP on the TQRIS): Oregon is requesting an overall decrease in this project of \$544. Within the project, travel is increased by \$11,279 to reflect the implementation needs of the project. Personnel, fringe benefits, and funding to localities are

decreased to reflect current needs of the project and to adjust for the increased indirect cost expenses.

Project 4 (Workforce Build Capacity): Oregon is requesting an overall increase in this project of \$228,819. Within the project, funds are being increased by \$736,450 in personnel and fringe to support four facilitators for the Early Learning Hub system. Contractual funds are being increased by \$254,338 to adjust for an accounting change in work performed by partners, which has been paid through a contract rather than a grant (as previously budgeted). To address both of these changes, funds to localities are being decreased by \$1,014,691.

Project 5 (Improve Rates of Developmental Screening at Regular Intervals): There is no overall change in the amount for this project. Within the project, funds are being increased by \$898,464 in funds to localities. These funds support the transfer of funds to the Oregon Health Authority to complete the work of the project. This was previously budgeted as a personnel expense. The work is not changing, only the method of payment.

Project 6 (TQRIS Data): Oregon is requesting an overall decrease in this project of \$245,941. This is primarily because the original budget included funds to purchase equipment to host the new TQRIS data system. However, it is now anticipated that the system will be hosted by the State of Oregon Data Center. This will be calculated into future Early Learning Division budgets.

Project 7 (Public Access): Oregon is requesting an overall decrease in this project of \$53,719. Within the project, funds are being increased by \$387,110 in the contractual category to roll-out implementation of the VROOM project. Funds are being reallocated from the funds to localities category, to reflect a change in how the initiative will be administered. Funds will go through the Early Learning Division rather than the Early Learning Hubs.

Project 8 (Aligned ECE to K-3 Teaching and Learning): Funding for this project is being increased by \$7,134. These are small changes that mostly reflect changes in personnel and indirect costs, as well as an increase in travel expenses.

Project 9 (Oregon Kindergarten Assessment): Oregon is requesting a decrease of \$447 for this project. Within the project, funds have been moved to personnel and fringe benefits to support hiring education specialists to work with Department of Education staff in the planning and implementation of kindergarten assessments. Funds have been decreased in the "other" category intended for training and technical assistance during the rollout of the kindergarten entry assessment. These activities will now be provided by the education specialists.

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

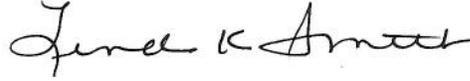
Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment request and our approval. All budget changes are recorded in the GRADS 360 system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that Oregon 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 Agda Burchard, at (206) 615-2574 or Agda.Burchard@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