



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
United States Department of Health and Human services



November 23, 2015

Michelle Figlar
Deputy Secretary
Pennsylvania Departments of Human Services and Education
Office of Child Development and Early Learning
333 Market Street 6th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Ms. Figlar,

This letter is in response to Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania's grant projects and scope of work on June 20, 2014. On September 30, 2015, Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) submitted an amendment request, to redistribute unspent Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 grant funds within all nine projects, as well as transferring funds across five projects resulting in a fiduciary shift greater than \$500,000.

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.

Pennsylvania is making significant progress completing its Scope of Work across its nine projects in the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant as the State reaches its half way point in implementation. The State has carefully assessed its expenditures and anticipated resource needs and determined that in order for the State to accomplish its goals and objects this budget amendment is needed. To complete Pennsylvania's scope of work by the end of the grant period, December 2017, the State requests RTT-ELC grant funds to be shifted within the State's approved scope of work budget as outlined below.

The State has the Departments' approval to move a total of \$7,148,880.49 of unspent funds within all projects and to transfer \$2,281,024.75 across projects as follows:

\$14,163.00	Transfer from Project 1 to Project 8
\$106,160.22	Transfer from Project 2 to Project 4
\$1,178,158.78	Transfer from Project 2 to Project 8
\$315,368.00	Transfer from Project 3 to Project 8
\$609,854.00	Transfer from Project 7 to Project 8
\$57,320.75	Transfer from Project 9 to Project 8

Pennsylvania may transfer \$106,160.22 from Project 2 to Project 4 to support work on Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 Learning Standards for Early Childhood. The funds transferred to Project 4 will be used to increase the number of Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 Learning Standards for Early Childhood booklets in print form from 9,500 each to 15,000 each (Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2) which will be distributed to all public school districts for dissemination to each elementary school.

Pennsylvania, may also transfer \$2,174,864.53 Projects 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9 to support the planned Project 8 data enhancements to the Keystone STARS program/PELICAN Keys to Quality system centered on outcomes measurement work for the RTT-ELC Pennsylvania grant.

We understand that this amendment request will not impact Pennsylvania's overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure Pennsylvania can continue to make progress on its RTT-ELC scope of work activities. The additional activities described are a natural outgrowth from current project work.

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 Pennsylvania 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 U.S. Department of Education Project Officer, Miriam Lund, at (202) 401-2871 or Miriam.Lund@ed.gov or your U.S. Department of Health and Human Services co-project officer Marsha Basloe, at (202) 401-7241 or Marsha.Basloe@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Libby Doggett
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Early Learning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

/s/

Linda K. Smith
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood
Development
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of health and Human Services

CC: Debbie Reuvenny, Director, Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant, Pennsylvania Departments of Human Services and Education