



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



Lupita Cortez Alcalá  
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Alcalá:

Thank you for your timely submission of California's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Annual Performance Report (APR) on February 15, 2013. We appreciate the care you have taken in completing this report. The APR information will be useful to us in monitoring your grant and will also inform the public about the accomplishments of the program. We will be posting your APR and this letter on our website at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/performance.html> for the purpose of transparency and public accountability.

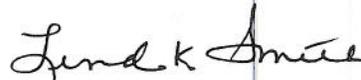
We are pleased with the progress you have made in the first year of this grant, particularly in the area of establishing a TQRIS with common tiers across 17 Regional Consortia. However, we also want to note several items that we will work with you to address during the second year of your grant.

- California expended 74% of its first-year budget. However, your reported expenditures were low in a number of projects due to delays in awarding contracts. Please work with your Project Officers to establish revised budgets and timelines for those expenditures, in accordance with our amendment procedures.
- In your initial application and approved Scope of Work, you did not provide performance targets for tables B(2)(c) and B(4)(c)(1) and (2) because your TQRIS was not yet operational. Now that you have established baseline participation data for your TQRIS, please work with your Project Officers to establish appropriate performance targets for the remaining years of the grant.
- You noted that an amendment would be needed in order to change funds from contract to personnel in one of your projects. Please provide an amendment request to your Project Officers so that we can address this concern.

We look forward to working with you during the next year to address any issues raised by your APR and reviewing California's accomplishments that you report next year. Thank you for your continued work to enrich the lives of our youngest learners.

Sincerely,

  
Alexander Golaprow  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Planning  
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