



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



Sarah Harding  
Director of Human Resources and Operations  
Department of Early Education and Care  
51 Sleeper Street, 4th floor  
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Ms. Harding:

Thank you for your timely submission of Massachusetts'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. The information presented in your APR is comprehensive and illustrates the work that is being implemented in the State. However, we also want to note several items that we will work with you to address during the second year of your grant.

- Massachusetts reported low expenditures in a number of projects. Your Project Officers will work with you to establish revised budgets and timelines for those expenditures, in accordance with our amendment procedures.
- We note that you did not achieve several of your targets under Performance Measure (B)(2)(c) and (D)(2)(d)(2). Your Project Officers will talk with you about how you plan to address performance in those areas.
- In addition, you exceeded your targets under Performance Measure (D)(2)(d)(1) by a significant amount. Your Project Officers will talk with you about whether it would be appropriate to increase targets in the future years of the grant.

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

Sincerely,

Alexander Goniprow  
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