



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



Rolf Grafwallner
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Childhood Development
Maryland State Department of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street, 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Grafwallner:

Thank you for your timely submission of Maryland'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.

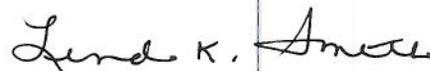
We are pleased with the progress you have made in the first year of this grant, particularly your work with Ohio to build a Comprehensive Assessment System. We are appreciative of the great work with the establishment of the local early childhood advisory councils that now cover the State; the new strength in Maryland's EXCELS; the development of a comprehensive data system; and your work with pediatricians and families. However, we also want to note one item that we will work with you to address during the second year of your grant.

- Maryland expended 52% of its first-year budget. Your Project Officers will work with you to establish revised budgets and timelines for those expenditures, in accordance with our amendment procedures.

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

Sincerely,


Alexander Coniprow
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