



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



Karen Cadigan
Office of the Governor, State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Cadigan:

Thank you for your timely submission of Minnesota’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 well the work that is being implemented in Minnesota. However, we also want to note several items that we will work with you to address during the second year of your grant.

- Minnesota expended approximately 78% of its first-year budget. However, you reported expenditures for 15% of the budgeted grant funds in 2012 and expenditures were low 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 many of your original targets under the various performance measures for reasons specific to each performance measure, as stated in your APR. Your Project Officers will talk with you about how you plan to address performance in each performance measure area.
- In addition, we are processing your amendment request to change projected targets in various charts and tables based on explanations provided.

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

Sincerely,

Alexander Gomprow
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