



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



Stephanie Siddens
Director, Office of Early Learning and School Readiness
Ohio State Department of Education
25 South Front Street, Mail Stop 208
Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Dear Dr. Siddens:

Thank you for your timely submission of Ohio'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 www.ed.gov, 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 Ohio's work with Maryland to build a Comprehensive Assessment System. We are appreciative of the great work to build cross-agency collaboration within the State; the development of a comprehensive set of child standards that address all development domains from birth to kindergarten entry; the work to expand and improve TQRIS; and the expanded data systems. However, we also want to note one item that we will work with you to address during the second year of your grant.

- Ohio expended only 5% of its first-year budget. Your reported 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 look forward to working with you during the next year to address any issues raised by your APR and reviewing Ohio'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