



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

April 16, 2013

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

I am writing in response to Massachusetts' request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. On March 18, 2013, the State submitted an amendment request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department); the State then provided additional clarification as requested. As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On October 4, 2011, the Department sent a letter and revised "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to Governors of grantee States indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program Principles, which are also included in that document.

I approve the following amendment:

In Project D4.A4: Teacher and Principal Preparation Expansion, make the following changes:

- Shift \$4,393,300 (\$1,810,300 for Teacher Preparation and \$2,583,000 for Principal Preparation) from the LEA supplemental grant category to the contractual and indirect cost categories.¹ The original budget incorrectly identified these funds in the LEA supplemental grant category; these funds must be awarded as a contract, not as grant to an LEA.

¹ An additional \$306,700 is transferred from Year 2 surplus funds in project (D)(4) to project (E)(2) – Priority Partners. These funds will provide further support to the State's Level 4 schools.

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

- Shift funds for the Teacher Preparation Expansion grants from Year 2 to Years 3 and 4 and shift funds for the Principal Preparation Expansion grants from Years 2 and 3 to Year 4. We understand that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) did not award the any of the preparation expansion grants until after June 26, 2012 when the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education had adopted the revised preparation program regulations. Due to the delayed adoption of the regulations, the ESE was not able to award Principal and Teacher preparation expansion grants in Year 2, as planned. Furthermore, the ESE did not receive any eligible proposals for Principal Preparation Expansion grants in response to the released request for proposal (RFP) for Year 3, thus the need to shift funds for these grants to Year 4.
- Fund the work entirely from State Race to the Top Funds. The ESE initially planned that the participating LEAs would share in the cost of this work but later determined that the LEA funds were not necessary to implement the project activities.

In addition to this amendment, I acknowledge that the State's timeline for the Teacher and Principal Preparation Expansion project, which was originally to begin in Year 2, has been delayed due to the wait for the revised preparation program regulations.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope of work.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact your Race to the Top Program Officer, Cindy Savage, at 202-453-5998 or Cindy.Savage@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen
Director, Program and Policy Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Commissioner Mitchell Chester
Carrie Conaway
Helene Bettencourt
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