



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 19, 2013

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

Dear Governor Patrick:

I am writing in response to Massachusetts' request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between July 5 and July 30, 2013, the State submitted amendment requests to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department). 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 amendments:

- In Federal Project 6, Sub-project B3.A-IT (Create and deploy a teaching and learning system): (1) Shift \$795,500 in unspent Year 3 other funds to Year 4. Year 3 costs for the teaching and learning system jointly procured with Ohio were lower than expected. In Year 4, these funds will support subscription costs and customization of the system. (2) Shift \$203,935 in unspent Year 3 "other" and indirect costs funds to Federal Project 3, Sub-project B3.A3 to support Year 4 personnel, fringe benefits, and travel costs associated with a program manager position. In Years 1 through 3, this position was paid for through another Race to the Top project; given that the program manager's position has shifted focus, the State would now like to fund this position through the project on which this staff person primarily works.
- In Federal Project 12, Sub-project E2.F (Build the capacity of proven partners to support struggling schools): (1) Shift \$563,900 from Year 4 contractual to Year 4 supplemental funding for participating LEAs. Funds will be used for the same purpose, to support restart efforts and partnerships between Level 4 schools and turnaround operators in SY 2013-2014. Shifting funds to the supplemental funding

for participating LEAs category will allow one district selected to receive funding for this purpose to contract directly with turnaround operators.

- In Federal Project 12, Sub-project E2.B (Develop a specialized corps of turnaround teachers): (1) Shift \$508,007 in unspent Year 3 funds to Year 4 because expected vendor and supplemental funding for participating LEAs costs for operating turnaround teacher and leader teams were lower than expected.

It is our understanding that these amendments will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the Scope of Work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendments.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Massachusetts' Race to the Top Program Officer, Ashlee Davis, at 202-401-9501 or [Ashlee.Davis@ed.gov](mailto:Ashlee.Davis@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Commissioner Mitchell Chester  
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Helene Bettencourt  
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