



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 15, 2014

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, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. Between January 24, and August 12, 2014, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to support a amendment requests to its approved Race to the Top plan. As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided the revisions do not change the overall scope and objectives of the approved proposal. In March 2013, the Department issued "Amendment Requests with No-cost Extension Guidance and Principles" indicating the process by which amendments containing requests to provide additional time for a grantee to accomplish the reform goals and deliverables it committed to in its Race to the Top application and approved Scope of Work would be reviewed. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions and elements specific to no cost extensions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program *Principles* included in the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document issued to Governors of grantee States in October 2011.

I approve the following amendments, including an extension to the time period for implementation to June 30, 2015, Year 5, as described below.

- In Federal Project 7, Sub-project C3.A-IT (Educator training on data use IT): Shift \$126,905 from Year 3 and 4 to Year 5, within this sub-project budget.¹ Through June 30, 2015, these funds will continue to be for purchase of servers to support the State's technology platform for educator training. The funds are available

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¹ The State also shifted funds from this sub-project budget to sub-project E2.F, as described in an amendment letter dated April 16, 2014.

from Years 3 and 4 because of lower than expect indirect costs, personnel and equipment costs. The servers in this sub-project will also support the technology platform in sub-project D3.J-IT (SPED/ELL courses-program IT).

- In Federal Project 9, Sub-project D3.I (Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) professional development): Previously titled, "SPED/ELL courses," this project will now be titled "Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) professional development." Shift Year 3 contractual and indirect costs of \$206,100 and Year 4 contractual and indirect costs of \$1,580,719 to Year 5 contractual and indirect costs. In addition, shift \$600,000 from this sub-project budget to D3.J-IT (see below) and \$23,373 from sub-project D3.J to Year 5 in sub-project D3.I. The total Year 5 sub-project budget will be \$1,210,192 for use through June 30, 2015. Within this sub-project budget, Year 3 funds are available due to delays in developing coaching modules. Year 4 funds are available because the State determined that professional learning networks (PLNs) were not an effective strategy for facilitating collaboration among SEI teachers. Rather than support PLNs, the State will now train educators in SEI through a menu of professional development options, videos and other virtual simulations and by developing English as a second language (ESL) curriculum for educators with English learner (EL) students. In addition, the State will continue to extend SEI training to an additional 9,000 educators in school year (SY) 2014-2015 and develop training and coaching modules for ESL teachers and mathematics and literacy coaches.
- In Federal Project 9, Sub-project D3.J-IT (Activities to support SEI endorsement course registration and online learning): Previously titled, "SPED/ELL courses-program IT," this project will now be titled "Activities to support SEI endorsement course registration and on-line learning." Shift \$354,500 of unspent Year 3 funds in this sub-project to Year 4 contractual and indirect costs, and shift a total of \$1,153,056 from several IT budgets (\$767,990 from C2.A-IT, \$344,886 from C2.A2-IT, and \$40,180 from C2.A2IT) to Years 4 and 5 contractual and indirect costs. In addition, shift \$600,000 from D3.I (above) to Year 5 contractual and indirect costs in this sub-project budget. The total Year 4 budget is \$972,500 and \$1,135,056 is approved for use through June 30, 2015. In Year 5 the State will continue to develop the online registration system (CVENT) and learning management platform (Blackboard) and establish connections to the State's educator licensure system (ELAR). The funds are available as a result of the Executive Office of Education's (EOE) indirect cost being significantly less than originally budgeted, unspent personnel funds and delays in IT work. The State explained that while the learning management system is being developed to register and track educators' progress in the SEI training and certification process, in the future the system will be used for all State professional development offerings.

As described in a September 17, 2013, amendment approval letter, the Department indicated that it generally approves the State's process to review LEA subgrant requests to obligate and liquidate funds after September 23, 2014.

It is our understanding that this amendment and no-cost extension will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that we expect grantees with no-cost extensions to liquidate all funds by September 1, 2015, given that by law all Race to the Top funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2015. The State must request and receive approval to move forward with no-cost extensions for any additional projects. 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, Monika Bandyopadhyay, at 202-260-2531 or monika.bandyopadhyay@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

Patrick Rooney
Acting Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Commissioner Mitchell Chester
Carrie Conaway
Robert O'Donnell
Matt Wilder