



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 3, 2011

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 February 15, 2011, the State submitted amendment requests to 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 January 6, 2011, the Department sent a letter and "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 am pleased to approve the following amendments:

- In the "Overall program and grant management" project budget, Massachusetts will use \$239,436 to fund a policy analyst position over the four year grant period. The additional analyst will help Massachusetts more effectively support state and local implementation through performance benchmarking, monitoring, and analysis to support accountability for progress and performance. Massachusetts will use \$187,165 for contracts for support in the areas of program/project management, communications strategy, and grant review, reflecting an updated estimate of the State's understanding of its need in these areas. Massachusetts had originally budgeted these funds for an operations and grants manager, but is using other state resources for this function.
- In the "Improve teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance" project budget, the Strategic Data Fellow from Harvard's Strategic Data Project and associated indirect costs funded with Race to the Top will now be funded by other sources. This change will permit Massachusetts to devote an additional \$197,559 for the contract to develop a statewide evaluation framework and tools plus indirect costs. Additionally, Massachusetts has corrected the budget to reflect the fact that the work will take place over the course of the next 3.5 years, requiring that the budget be allocated over the same period.

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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.

It is our understanding that the 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.

I am confident that Massachusetts will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. 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, Bridget Kelly, at (202) 453-5534 or bridget.kelly@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

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Ann Whalen

Deputy Director, Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Commissioner Mitchell Chester
Carrie Conaway