



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

August 15, 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 August 9, 2011, the State submitted an amendment request 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 amendment:

- For the project area of Standards and Assessments, for the Innovation Schools grant, fund a greater number of schools during fiscal years (FY) 2012 and 2013, rather than distributing the number of schools and funding evenly over the four years of the program. This adjustment in timing and funding is due to greater response to the program than initially anticipated. Instead of providing \$375,000 for each of FY 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, provide \$302,450 in FY 2011, \$800,000 in FY 2012, \$397,550 in FY 2013, and \$0 in FY 2014.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope of work.

<http://www.ed.gov>

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202-6200

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

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 your Race to the Top Program Officer, Bridget Kelly, at 202-453-5534 or bridget.kelly@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Commissioner Mitchell Chester
Carrie Conaway