



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Office of the Governor  
Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

August 31, 2015

Dear Governor Baker:

I am writing in response to Massachusetts' request to amend its approved Race to the Top (RTT) grant project, including revisions to the project period to implement a portion of its plan. On August 28, 2015, the State submitted documentation to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to support an amendment request to its approved RTT plan. ED 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, ED 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 RTT application and approved Scope of Work would be reviewed. To determine whether approval could be granted, ED has applied the conditions and elements specific to no-cost extensions noted in the document, and compared it with the RTT program *Principles* included in the "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document issued to Governors of grantee States in October 2011.

I approve the following amendment as described below.

- Shift \$750,314 in available fiscal year 2015 funds from multiple Race to the Top projects to sub-project E2.F to provide grants to districts to support school improvement activities until August 31, 2015. These funds are available due to lower-than-expected spending on personnel, indirect costs, and contractual activities across multiple Race to the Top projects.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, Massachusetts will provide available Race to the Top funds to districts to professional development and to fund staff positions and external partnerships to support turnaround efforts in Level 3 and 4 schools in these districts.

It is ED's understanding that this 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. Additionally, Massachusetts has assured ED that these grants are funded from the discretionary share of its Title I award and will not impact the State's Title I allocation grants or jeopardize the State's ability to meet its Title I program requirements. Please note that we expect grantees with no-cost extensions to liquidate all funds by September 18, 2015, given that by law all RTT funds revert to the

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<sup>1</sup> Funds are available from sub-projects D2.A, D2.A1, D2.C, D3.K, and D4.A4.

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U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2015. This letter will be posted on ED's website as a record of the amendment.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding RTT, please do not hesitate to contact Millie Bentley-Memon or Chueene Boston of my staff at: [OSS.Massachusetts@ed.gov](mailto:OSS.Massachusetts@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Monique M. Chism, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of State Support

cc: Commissioner Mitchell D. Chester  
Robert O'Donnell