



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



May 30, 2013

Clark Greene
Chief of Staff
Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminster St.
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Greene:

I am writing in response to Rhode Island's request to amend its approved Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant projects. On May 17, 2013, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to support amendment requests to its approved Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge plan. As you are aware, the Departments have the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such as change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On July 18, 2012, the Department sent a letter and "RTT-ELC Amendment Process" document to Project Directors 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-Early Learning Challenge program requirements and conditions.

I approve the following amendments, as described below:

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will make modifications to Project 6, Early Learning Data System Scope of Work, specifically tasks within "Activity 6.11- Expand capability of Department of Human Services Eligibility System (InRhodes) to include program quality information in order to process tiered quality incentive payments.

- The State has determined that a manual process is the most cost effective method at this point in time since it will only require support of a limited number of programs that meet the criteria (Programs operating at a Star level 3, 4, 5) and eligible to receive a quality award payment. Phasing in the automation process in early CY2014 (see d2) will reduce manual effort and allow DHS to handle the anticipated increase in the number of programs that become eligible to receive Quality Award payments over the next two years.

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.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge, please do not hesitate to contact your Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge program officer, Tammi Fergusson, at 202-453-7508 or Tammi.Fergusson@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammi M. Fergusson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end of the name.

Tammi Fergusson
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Early Learning
RTT-ELC and Even Start
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202-6200

Cc: Governor Lincoln D. Chafee
Commissioner Deborah Gist
Judy Willgren