



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

January 12, 2011

Mitchell Chester
Commissioner
Massachusetts Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Mr. Chester,

I would like to thank you and all your colleagues at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for your hard work and collaboration with us as you begin to implement your Race to the Top grant. On November 22, 2010, we received final scopes of work for Massachusetts' participating local educational agencies (LEAs), and a detailed scope of work for Massachusetts' entire project that is consistent with its approved application. We approve the State scope of work and the format of the LEA scopes of work; they include specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, key personnel, and annual targets for key performance measures.

We understand that the state has approved an LEA scope of work if it meets the requirements set forth in the September 20, 2010 "Race to the Top in Massachusetts: Guidelines for responses to the Year 1 Request For Proposals" document. The requirements for an LEA scope of work include submission of a program narrative, performance measures, governance statement, district budget workbook for activities in Year 1 (through August 30, 2011), and indicated anticipated activities in Years 2, 3, and 4. Further, we understand that districts will submit a full RTT implementation plan and budget for Years 2 through 4 in spring 2011 as part of a Request for Proposals, in order to permit districts to integrate the resources available through Race to the Top into their normal budget planning cycle. We hope that your LEA transformation process will result in materials and lessons that other states can use in addressing common LEA capability gaps.

On September 24, 2010, Massachusetts received a grant of \$250,000,000 with the condition that the state draws down no more than 12.5 percent of the grant prior to approval of the State's scope of work. I am pleased to notify you that the remaining balance of the award is now available to the State. Funds may be drawn down only as they are needed to meet immediate obligation needs, and their use must be consistent with the implementation of Massachusetts' Race to the Top plan and in support of accomplishing its proposed milestones.

As we have discussed with you, we see both the State's and LEAs' scopes of work as living documents that may be subject to additional review and revision where appropriate over time.

If you have any questions concerning your Race to the Top award, please contact Bridget Kelly at bridget.kelly@ed.gov or 202-453-5534.

Sincerely,

//s//

Joseph C. Conaty, Ph.D.
Interim Director, Race to the Top Program

cc: Governor Deval Patrick
Carrie Conaway