



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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November 19, 2010

Bridget Kelly
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Kelly:

Enclosed are proposals and budgets for the 257 Massachusetts school districts now participating in Race to the Top. Our original May 2010 proposal included 276 participating districts. In the intervening months 19 districts have dropped out, leaving 257 still participating. As you can see from the following table, this has had only a small effect on statewide impact.

	Total N of LEAs	Participating in May 2010		Participating in November 2010	
	N	N	%	N	%
LEAs	393	276	70%	257	65%
Schools	1,833	1,375	75%	1,319	72%
K-12 students*	931,391	686,137	74%	655,087	70%
Students in poverty*	294,692	258,048	88%	256,021	87%

* October 2009 enrollment figures.

A complete list of participating districts and those that dropped out is attached. Of the 257 participating districts, we have approved all proposals. However, in a final scan of files we discovered two with minor technical issues: Marshfield Public Schools and Christa McAuliffe Regional Charter Public School. I will send you updated versions of their proposals early next week.

As you know, we have approved districts' plans and budgets only for their Year 1 activities. We will issue a second Request for Proposals in spring 2011 in which we will require detailed plans and budgets for the remaining three years of Race to the Top. From the Year 1 proposals, we feel that Cambridge, Malden, Quaboag, Triton, and Global Learning Charter School submitted among the strongest proposals. As for weaker proposals, we found that districts that requested to spend \$0 in Year 1 generally spent less time and effort on their proposals. We do not expect this problem to persist next year, as all districts will begin spending down funding so will need to produce a better-documented plan and budget.

We are excited to begin working with our districts to implement our reform strategy and are confident that they are off to a strong start.

Sincerely,

Carrie Conaway
Director of Planning, Research, and Evaluation