

# **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

June 7, 2016

Matthew Spengler, Executive Director  
Blueprint Schools Network  
61 Chapel Street  
Suite 1  
Newton, MA 02458

Re: Turnaround Plan for the Paul A. Dever Elementary School

Dear Mr. Spengler:

I have reviewed your request to modify the Turnaround Plan for the Paul A. Dever Elementary School to incorporate more time for weekly staff professional development and collaborative planning and to expand the school year. (See attached Proposal for Amendment to Level 5 School Turnaround Plan dated May 17, 2016.)

As you noted, this change is in response to teacher and leader feedback indicating that there is a need for more frequent staff professional development and collaborative planning. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the proposal, and pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(v), I modify the Dever School Turnaround Plan to include a weekly early release day to be used for professional development, and to expand the school calendar to 186 instructional days. Students will continue to have at least 20 percent more instructional time than their peers in the district and teachers will continue to have a 9-hour work day.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER CHESTER**

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education