*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.*Commissioner* |  |

June 14, 2016

Tim Nicolette

President, UP Education Network

85 Olney Street

Boston, MA 02121

Re: Turnaround Plan for the Holland School

Dear Mr. Nicolette:

I have reviewed your requests to modify the Turnaround Plan for the UP Academy Holland. The first request seeks to clarify the intention behind the school’s focus on high expectations for students and staff. (See attached Proposal for Modification to Level 5 School Turnaround Plan dated June 6, 2016.) I agree to this modification to the description of high expectations included in Priority Area 1 of the Turnaround Plan to better describe the program as implemented at the school.

The second request would amend the Turnaround Plan to change the means of delivery of English language learner (ELL) services, from language-specific sheltered English immersion (SEI) classes to mixed-language, inclusive SEI classrooms. The amendment would also add a requirement that the school annually review its hybrid multi-lingual SEI classrooms to ensure that students receive high quality services. (See attached Proposal for Amendment to Level 5 School Turnaround Plan dated June 10, 2016.) As you noted, this change is in response to UP Education Network’s determination that: 1) such a programmatic change is in the best interests of the social and academic growth of ELL students at UP Holland; 2) there are not a sufficient number of language specific student enrolled at UP Holland for the 2016-17 school year to open language specific classes at any grade; and 3) this change will better position the school to meet its measurable annual goals for ELLs and former ELLs. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the proposal, and pursuant to G.L. c. 69, § 1J(v)(second para.), I modify the UP Academy Holland Turnaround Plan to change the means of delivery of ELL services from language-specific SEI to mixed-language, inclusive SEI classrooms.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER CHESTER**

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education