



Colorado's “Race to the Top”

Revised Plan Summary
January 4, 2009

Summary of the R2T Application and Selection Process

In order to apply, states must meet:

Application Requirements

- Signatures of key stakeholders
- Progress to date in four reform areas
- Education funding from FY08-FY09
- Plans for funds
- State level implementation plan
- Reform Condition Criteria of current preparedness level
- Reform Plan Criteria of future reforms
- Agree to report publicly on progress

Eligibility Requirements

- Approved for State Fiscal Stabilization Fund money (ARRA)
- No legal barriers to linking student achievement data to teachers and principals

Applications will be scored based on:

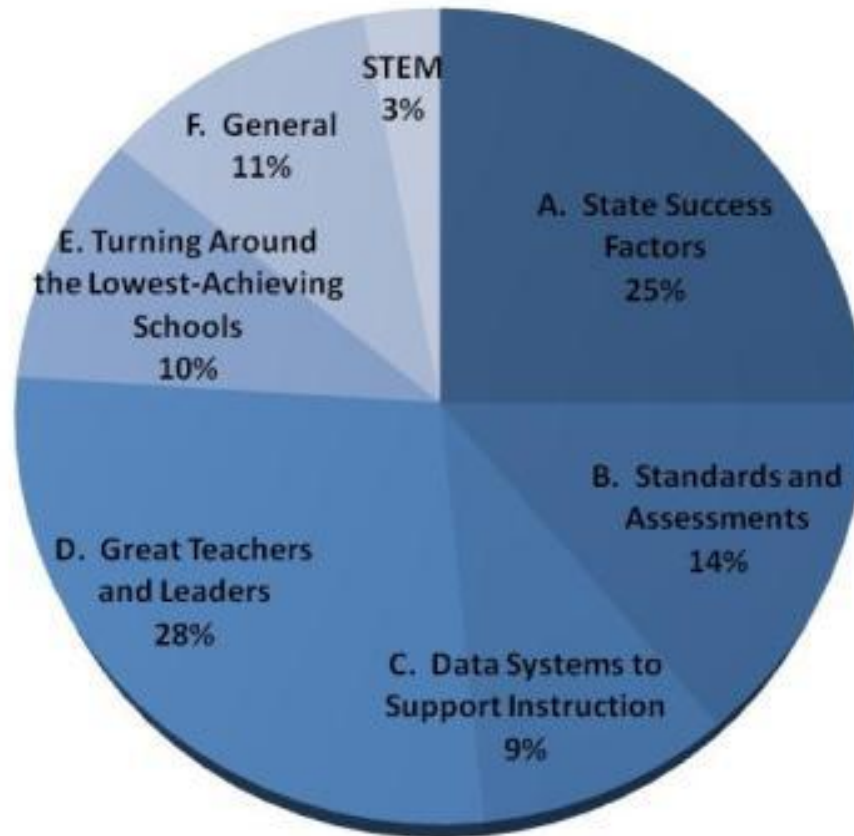
Selection Criteria

- State success factors (*125 points*)
- Develop and implement high-quality common standards and assessments (*70 points*)
- Will implement a statewide longitudinal data system to improve instruction (*47 points*)
- Great Teachers and Leaders (*138 points*)
- Will turn around struggling schools (*50 points*)
- General selection criteria (*55 points*)

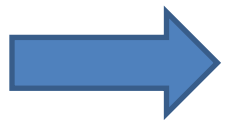
Other Priorities

- Absolute: Comprehensive approach
- Competitive: Emphasis on STEM (*15 points*)
- Invitational: Improving Early Childhood Education
- Invitation: Expansion of Longitudinal Data Systems
- Invitation: P-20 Alignment
- Invitation: School-level reform and innovation conditions

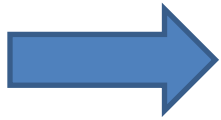
Race to the Top Points



Colorado's Race to the Top proposal will create **exemplary and sustainable learning communities to drive dramatic improvements in student outcomes** by investing in...



Educator capacity and supports



Incentives for collaboration, results and knowledge capture



Opportunities for innovation

Colorado's Race to the Top proposal will create **exemplary and sustainable learning communities to drive **dramatic improvements in student outcomes** by investing in:**

- Educator capacity and supports
- Incentives for collaboration, results and knowledge capture
- Opportunities for innovation

Standards and Assessment

- **Deliver support to implement new content standards**
- **Aid in the adoption of Formative Assessments to drive instruction**
- **Support adoption of Interim Benchmark Assessments to monitor progress**

Data Systems

- **Create a comprehensive electronic portal (SchoolView) for support of new standards and sharing of education content**
- **Ensure district capacity to implement systems**
- **Foster a data-driven culture to speed adoption of best practices**

Great Teachers and Leaders

- **Develop and implement robust educator evaluation systems**
- **Recognize and reward innovation and excellence**
- **Ensure students with greatest needs have access to effective educators**

Support Struggling Schools

- **Build CDE capacity to support struggling schools**
- **Enable a Turnaround Center to support schools and districts with struggling schools**

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Standards and Assessment

- **Deliver support to implement new content standards**
 - Inter-district collaboratives that support aligned curricula, and develop/choose assessments
 - Provide differentiated support to spread the development of standards-based data-driven instruction
 - Disseminate aligned curricula for voluntary use
- **Aid in the adoption of Formative Assessments to drive instruction**
 - Disseminate aligned formative items
 - Ensure high-quality formative assessments for all Participating districts
- **Support adoption of Interim Benchmark Assessments to monitor progress**
 - Develop and make available state-sponsored interim benchmark assessments
 - Ensure high-quality interim assessments for all Participating districts

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Data Systems

- **Create a comprehensive electronic portal (SchoolView) for support of new standards and sharing of education content**
 - Build instructional improvement systems
 - Make available digital course content
 - Facilitate peer-to-peer educator collaboration
 - Support statewide sharing of best practices and data use among stakeholders
 - Create interface for high-quality 3rd party providers to connect with classrooms
- **Ensure district capacity to implement systems**
 - Subsidize district purchases of SIS (Student Information Systems)
 - Create early-warning systems
- **Foster a data-driven culture to speed adoption of best practices**
 - Connect and empower data analysis leaders within districts and schools
 - Provide district, school and classroom data analysis and training on using data to inform instruction and decisions
 - Capture innovative data practices at school/district level and share widely

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Great Teachers and Leaders

Develop and implement robust educator evaluation systems

- Identify valid measures of student growth and valid, reliable, fair and rigorous evaluation measures
- Meaningful input of educators and consensus driven recommendations for policy and practice changes
- Provide a portfolio of options for meaningful educator evaluation among participating districts
- Accelerate and learn from existing reforms
- Locally-driven implementation of meaningful evaluations
- Professional development directly informed by evaluations
- Administer bi-annual TELL survey of school conditions

Recognize and reward innovation and excellence

- Engage in continuous improvement and knowledge management to support educator effectiveness through an independent Educator Excellence Center
- Incent districts to develop and implement performance based compensation
- Create multiple career paths for effective educators
- Peer to peer sharing of effective instructional practice

Ensure students with greatest needs have access to effective educators

- Create residencies at high-performing schools for instructional leadership teams
- Incent endorsements in high-need subjects
- Correlate educator preparation with educator effectiveness
- Increase pipeline of effective new educators for high need schools and subjects through multiple partnerships
- Increase the # of AP and pre-AP teachers in high-poverty/high-minority schools

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Support Struggling Schools

- **Build CDE capacity to support struggling schools**
 - Identify struggling schools
 - Support district implementation of intervention models
 - Broker resources and information among turnaround schools
- **Enable a Turnaround Center to support schools and districts with struggling schools**
 - Build pipeline of educators for turnaround schools
 - Identify effective school turnaround providers
 - Support "Innovation Zones" for clusters of high-need schools and students
 - Identify and support "wrap around support" such as
 - Strategies to engage students, parents and community
 - Extended learning time
 - Early childhood education
 - Dropout prevention and recovery
 - School governance
 - Create new and replicate existing high performing schools, with a focus upon high-quality multiple pathways

What does it mean to be a “Participating District”?

- No separate grant application from districts are required
- 50 percent of funds awarded to participating LEAs based on relative share of Title I funds
- Additional funds can be awarded to participating and involved LEAs from second 50 percent of award
- Strong MOU will include
 - Terms and conditions
 - Key roles and responsibilities for state and LEA
 - State recourse for LEA nonperformance
 - Scope of work
 - May be preliminary
 - Include portions of R2T application that LEA is agreeing to implement (should be all or significant portions)
 - If R2T is awarded, LEAs have up to 90 days to complete final scope of work
 - Signatures of as many of the following as possible:
 - Superintendent
 - President of school board
 - President of local teachers’ union

Critical Dates

Nov 2009	Notice Inviting Applications
Immediately	Submit signed MOU if not already done so
Jan 6, 2010	Participating Districts submit baseline data
Jan 6, 2010	Summary of Final Application Available
Jan 19, 2010	Phase I Applications Due
April 2010 + 90 days <i>(If necessary)</i>	Phase I Awards Announced Final Scope of Work
<i>June 2010</i>	<i>Phase II Applications Due</i>
<i>Sept 2010</i> + 90 days	<i>Phase II Awards Announced</i> <i>Final Scope of Work</i>
2014	End of grant award period