Race to the Top District (RTT-D)
Summary and Consideration

Overview
The focus of the RTT-D competition is on the creation and implementation of personalized learning environments that are designed to significantly improve teaching and learning through the personalization of strategies, tools and supports for students and educators.

To meet this priority, an applicant must indicate how it will build on the core educational assurance areas to create learning environments that are: designed to significantly improve learning and teaching through the personalization of strategies, tools, and supports for students and educators that are aligned with college- and career-ready standards or college- and career-ready graduation requirements; accelerate student achievement and deepen student learning by meeting the academic needs of each student; increase the effectiveness of educators; expand student access to the most effective educators; decrease achievement gaps across student groups; and increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.

Awards will range from $5 million to $40 million depending on the number of participating students served by the applicant.

Eligibility Criteria
Applicants can be individual LEAs or consortia of LEAs, intra-or interstate. Within the LEAs some or all schools can participate or participation can be specific to grades or subject area bands. An LEA may only participate in one RTTT-D application. Applicants must annually serve a minimum of 2,000 participating students, 40% of which must be from low-income families. An applicant may serve fewer than 2,000 students provided those students are served by a consortium of at least 10 LEAs. Applicants must demonstrate its commitment to the core educational assurance areas[1] as evidenced by submitting a signed assurance that the LEA:

- Will implement no later than the 2014-15 school year:
    - A teacher evaluation system;
    - A principal evaluation system; and
    - A superintendent evaluation system
- Is committed to preparing all students for college or career, as demonstrated by
    - Being in a state that has adopted college- and career- ready standards; or
    - Measuring all student progress and performance against college- and career- ready graduation requirements
- Has a robust data system that includes:
    - An individual teacher identifier with a teacher-student match; and
    - The capability to provide timely student growth data to educators and their supervisors
- Has the capability to match student level P-12 and higher education data; and
- Ensures that all information disclosure complies with FERPA

---

[1] Core education assurance areas include: 1) adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy; 2) building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction; 3) recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and 4) turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

Applications Processes and Timelines
Intent to apply is due August 30, 2012. Applications are due October 30, 2012. Awards will be announced in December 2012.

There are five selection criteria: vision (40 total points); prior record of success and conditions for reform (45 total points); preparing students for college and careers (40 total points); policy and infrastructure (25 total points); continuous improvement (30 total points); and budget and sustainability (20 total points).

Elements to be addressed under each criterion are detailed and extensive. For example, the section on prior record of success and conditions for reform requires that each LEA have evidence of their ability to improve student learning outcomes and close achievement gaps, achieve ambitious and significant reforms in its persistently lowest-achieving schools, and make student performance date available to students, educators and parents in ways that inform and improve participation, instruction and services.

As part of the application process, each LEA must provide the State at least 10 business days to comment on the application. The application must contain these comments and the LEAs responses or, if no comments were offered, evidence that 10 days to comment were provided.

The Colorado Department of Education will coordinate the process for commenting on district applications. All districts applying for the RTT-D should submit their application to CDE by October 8, 2012. CDE will return comments by October 22, 2012. Please send applications to Tricia Miller, Race to the Top Director at miller_t@cde.state.co.us.

For more information contact:
Tricia Miller
Race to the Top Director
Phone: 303-866-5735
Email: miller_t@cde.state.co.us