

Race to the Top RFP Summary
July 27, 2009
Florida Department of Education

Timeline

- Draft RFP released July 29
- Feedback on draft RFP due August 28
- Phase 1 final RFP out in mid-November
- Phase 1 application due 60-days after release
- Phase 1 award announcements anticipated in Spring 2010
- Phase 1 awards made in Fall 2010

Statutory Requirements

- States must have made significant progress in 4 assurance areas
- States must use at least 50% of the award to provide subgrants to LEAs (based on relative share of Title I, part A funds), including public charter schools
- Governor must apply on behalf of the state
- Description of status of progress in 4 assurance areas and strategies used to ensure subgroup progress
- Description of achievement and graduation rates and strategies used to ensure subgroup progress
- Description of use of funding to improve student academic achievement, including prioritization to high-need LEAs
- Inclusion of a plan to evaluate progress in closing achievement gaps

Priorities

- Absolute: comprehensive approach to 4 assurances
- Competitive Preference: Emphasis on STEM
- Invitational:
 - Expansion and Adaptation of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems
 - P-20 Coordination and Vertical Alignment
 - School-level Conditions for Reform and Innovation

Eligibility Requirements

- Approved application under both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund program of the ARRA by December 31, 2009
- No legal, statutory, or regulatory barriers to linking student achievement or student growth data to teachers for the purpose of teacher and principal evaluation
- Comprehensive and systemic approach to reform that integrates the 4 areas and designed to significantly improve student outcomes

Application Requirements

- Signed by Governor, Commissioner, and State Board Chairman
- Describe progress to date in 4 assurance areas include how ARRA and other federal funds have been used
- Provide financial data to show whether total revenues used to support education increased, decreased, or remained the same between FY08 and FY09
- Describe statewide support from stakeholders and LEAs (including charters)
- Include a budget detailing how it will use grant funds and other resources to meet targets including
 - Improving student achievement and graduation rates; closing achievement gaps
 - Giving priority to high-need LEAs
- Provide description of current status of meeting each criteria with evidence
- Provide a detailed plan for use of grant funds including key activities, goals and rationales, timeline, parties responsible, resources, and annual targets
- Certification from state Attorney General

Miscellaneous

- States receiving this award must submit an annual report and participate in an national evaluation (if USED chooses to do one)
- Must participate in all TA
- Make freely available all outputs related to the grant
- If awarded Phase 1, may not apply for Phase 2

Selection Criteria

Two categories:

1. *State Reform Conditions Criteria*, used to assess past progress and creating conditions for reform (SR)
2. *Reform Plan Criteria*, used to assess future efforts (RP)

(A) Standards and Assessments

- (1) Developing and adopting common standards (SR)
 - Common, internationally benchmarked
- (2) Developing and implementing common, high-quality assessments (SR)
- (3) Supporting transition to enhanced standards and high-quality assessments (SR)

(B) Data Systems to Support Instruction

- (1) Fully implementing a statewide longitudinal data system (SR)
- (2) Accessing and using state data (SR)
- (3) Using data to improve instruction (SR)

Selection Criteria (continued)

(C) Great Teachers and Leaders

- (1) Providing alternative pathways for aspiring teachers and principals (SR)
- (2) Differentiating teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance (RP)
 - Evaluation
 - Compensation/promotion
 - Tenure and dismissal
- (3) Ensuring equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals (RP)
 - High-poverty schools
 - Hard-to-staff subjects
- (4) Reporting the effectiveness of teacher and principals preparation programs (RP)
- (5) Providing effective support to teachers and principals (RP)

(D) Turning Around Struggling Schools

- (1) Intervening in the lowest-performing schools and LEAs (SR)
- (2) Increasing the supply of high-quality charter schools (SR)
 - Growth
 - Accountability
 - Funding
 - Facilities
- (3) Turning around struggling schools (RP)

(E) Overall Criteria

- (1) Demonstrating significant progress (SR)
- (2) Making education funding a priority (SR)
- (3) Enlisting statewide support and commitment (SR)
- (4) Raising achievement and closing gaps (RP)
 - Overall and by subgroup on NAEP reading and math
 - Closed the gap on NAEP reading and math
 - Targets for increasing graduation rate
- (5) Building strong statewide capacity to implement, scale, and sustain proposed plans (RP)
 - Grant oversight
 - Support success of LEAs
 - Continue reforms after funding ends
 - Collaborate with other states
 - Shift funds from other sources to align with Race to the Top goals