



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Request for Application (RFA Entitlement)

Bureau / Office

Office of the Commissioner of Education

Program Name

Race to the Top – Local Education Agency (LEA) Application

Specific Funding Authority (ies)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Public Law 111-5, CFDA 84.39A

Funding Purpose/Priorities

The purpose of this funding is to provide support for participating local education agencies (LEAs) in the implementation of Florida's Race to the Top application as approved by the US Department of Education. The intent is to implement ambitious plans in four core education reform areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around the lowest-achieving schools.

Type of Award

Entitlement

Total Funding Amount

See attached allocation chart. Note: these figures are contingent upon confirmation from USDOE that Florida's full grant request is awarded.

Budget Period

Projects will be approved for four budget periods:

- September 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011
- July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012
- July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013
- July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014

Program Performance Period

September 1, 2010, through June 30, 2014.

Target Population

Elementary and secondary education programs

Eligible Applicant(s)

School Districts and other Local Education Agencies who signed the required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and thus are identified as "Participating LEAs."

Application Due Date

November 9, 2010 (by 11:59 pm EST)

Program Contact Person

Holly Edenfield, Project Manager, Race to the Top

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Fiscal Contact Persons

Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations

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General Assurances

The Department of Education has developed and implemented a document entitled, General Terms, Assurances and Conditions for Participation in Federal and State Programs, to comply with:

- 34 CFR 76.301 of the Education Department General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) which requires local educational agencies to submit a common assurance for participation in federal programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education;
- Applicable regulations of other Federal agencies; and
- State regulations and laws pertaining to the expenditure of state funds.

In order to receive funding, applicants must have on file with the Department of Education, Office of the Comptroller, a signed statement by the agency head certifying applicant adherence to these General Assurances for Participation in State or Federal Programs. The complete text may be found at <http://fldoe.org/comptroller/doc/gbsectiond.doc>

School Districts, Community Colleges, Universities and State Agencies

The certification of adherence filed with the Department of Education Comptroller's Office shall remain in effect indefinitely unless a change occurs in federal or state law, or there are other changes in circumstances affecting a term, assurance, or condition; and does not need to be resubmitted with this application.

Program Specific Assurances

In order to receive this funding, applicants must agree to the program specific assurances contained in Attachment I. These assurances must be submitted with the application to receive funding and must bear the original signature of the authorized official (e.g., district superintendent).

Funding Method:

Federal Cash Advance

Federal cash advances will be made by state warrant or electronic funds transfer (EFT) to a recipient for disbursement. Requests for federal cash advance must be made by using the CARDS - Cash Advance and Reporting of Disbursements System. If at times it is determined that disbursements are going to exceed the amount of cash on hand plus cash in transit, an on-line amendment can be made prior to the due date of the next Federal Cash Advance distribution through CARDS.

The amount of available cash will be correlated to the approved budget and may be adjusted on a quarterly basis. Access to cash will also be dependent on the timely submission of deliverables identified in the approved scope of work.

Fiscal Requirements

Funds may be used only for the purposes specified in the project budget narrative and approved by the Florida Department of Education. Proposed expenditures must be consistent with the approved Florida Department of Education Race to the Top application, the Memorandum of Understanding, and the final Scope of Work submitted as part of this application.

Reporting

As stated in the guiding principle for transparency, reporting, and accountability, the fiscal reporting requirements for these funds go above and beyond routine fiscal reporting procedures. In addition to the monthly aggregate reporting that is reflected in CARDS and on the final Project Expenditure Report (DOE 399), these funds will require quarterly reporting of expenditures correlated with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Criteria. In order to accomplish this requirement, the Department of Education has created a web-based system for reporting on expenditures to date for each of the proposed expenditures reflected in the approved project budget. This format is similar to the budget narrative form contained in the project application.

Quarterly reporting is required by the US Department of Education. The Florida Department of Education is required to report by the 10th day of each month following the end of the quarter. Therefore, sub-recipients will be required to report to the Department by the 5th day of each month following the end of the quarter. Reporting dates are as follows:

- July 5
- October 5
- January 5
- April 5

Method of Review

Each application will be reviewed for fiscal and technical compliance by appropriate Department of Education staff.

Conditions for Acceptance

The requirements listed below must be met for applications to be considered for review:

- Application is received in DOE by November 9, 2010, at 11:59 PM EST (PDF and web-based budget submission). The required hard copy with original signatures must be received by the DOE no later than November 12, 2010.
- Application includes required forms: DOE 100A, DOE 101-RTTT – Budget, the complete Final Scope of Work with associated tables; the Program-Specific Assurances (Attachment I), and the Three-Party Assurances (Attachment II).
- The DOE 100A and the Assurances (Attachments I and II) must each bear the original signature of the authorized official(s).
- Applications must be submitted as follows:
 - A hard copy of all documents (with the exception of the DOE 101-RTTT) bearing original signatures must be mailed to

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Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Room 1502
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
 - A PDF version must be e-mailed to Racetothetop@fldoe.org.
 - The DOE 101-RTTT must be submitted online at the designated website.